

World War II victors suspend rights

NEW YORK (AP) — The four victorious powers of World War II decided Monday to suspend their rights over Berlin and Germany, allowing the divided nation to become fully sovereign from the moment of reunification. The United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France signed a document suspending operation of the rights they have exercised in Germany since the end of the war in 1945. The 45-year rights will formally terminate when all four powers have ratified the Sept. 12 Moscow treaty which paved the way for reunification Wednesday. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said in a statement that the United States welcomed reunification "as a full partner in promoting freedom and democracy in Europe and throughout the world." Germany, "fully sovereign, united and democratic... integrated within the (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) and the European Community, has long been a major foreign policy goal of the United States," Tutwiler said. The declaration makes Germany "effectively sovereign from the moment of unification on Oct. 2," she said. The document has titled "Declaration on the Suspension of Operation of Four-Power Rights and Responsibilities."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالمؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأسي

Volume 15 Number 4510 AMMAN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1990, RABFA AWWAL 13, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Bush, in major shift, says Iraqi pullout could lead to peace

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush, in a sharp shift in position, said Monday Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait could open the way to peace throughout the Middle East.

The president's speech to the U.N. General Assembly blended condemnation of Iraq with an overture for a resolution of the two-month-old crisis. "We seek a peaceful outcome, a diplomatic outcome," Bush said.

Significantly, he offered Iraq prospects of "new arrangements" among the states in the Gulf region as well as a chance for an Arab-Israeli settlement — provided Iraq departs from Kuwait unconditionally.

"Iraq's unprovoked aggression is a throwback to another era, a dark relic from a dark time," Bush said. "It was plundered Kuwait, terrorized innocent civilians and held even diplomats hostage."

The president, lining up with a proposal first advanced last week by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, said Iraq and its leadership must be held liable "for these crimes of abuse

and destruction."

But, at the same time, Bush edged perceptibly closer to Iraq's demand that its territorial dispute with Kuwait be linked to the Palestinian problem and Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

A similar gesture last week by French President Francois Mitterrand drew a mixed response Sunday from Iraq, who suggested that Iraq would fight to defend its takeover of Kuwait but also offered to open a "debate" with France on the region's future.

"We intend to make contacts with the French government to explain our position, questioning and dialogue our views accurately so that everything is based on clear ideas and actions," Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said in a broadcast message on the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed.

Bush said the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will not be permitted to stand, and that it had placed itself against the world.

However, the president said, "in the aftermath of Iraq's unconditional departure from Kuwait, I truly believe that there may be opportunities:

"For Iraq and Kuwait to settle their differences permanently; for the states of the Gulf themselves to build new arrangements for stability; and for all the states and peoples of the region to settle the conflict that divides the Arab world."

"And yet," Bush said, "the world's

key task — now, first and always — must be to demonstrate that aggression will not be tolerated or rewarded."

Throughout the Gulf crisis, U.S. officials had insisted that Iraq's takeover of Kuwait could not be linked in any way to the Arab-Israeli conflict or other regional problems.

As Bush was addressing the world body, the White House announced that he had decided to provide two Patriot air defence missile units to Israel — with the United States absorbing the cost of \$74 million this fiscal year and \$43 million next year.

The units include launchers, missiles, control equipment and spare parts, White House officials said. The move appeared aimed at softening Israeli objections to Washington's decision to beef up the military might of Saudi Arabia and others in the region in the wake of the Iraqi invasion.

Since the invasion, there has been an unprecedented level of cooperation between the United States and Soviet Union — and various Arab states long at odds with Washington.

Bush has been directly involved in mustering Arab support against Iraq — a move some White House officials believe may eventually help defuse the long-standing tensions between Israel and other states in the region.

White House officials, however, did not embrace the Iraqi statement suggesting a willingness to "debate" the crisis with France — calling the

remarks inadequate.

"Saddam still didn't address the two basic requirements of the U.N. resolutions — withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of that country's legitimate government," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

The United States has been committed to a Middle East settlement in which Israel would exchange territory for Arab recognition of the Jewish state. Bush made no reference on how talks would be held; the Soviets and the Arabs demand an international peace conference, which Israel opposes.

Bush assured Iraq that "we seek no advantages for ourselves" in the Gulf. Bush said the 165,000 U.S. troops deployed in Saudi Arabia were sent there at the request of the Saudi government.

"The American people — and this president — want every single American soldier brought home as soon as the mission is accomplished," he said.

Bush's address was interrupted three times for applause by the U.N. delegates. Throughout the speech, three Iraqi diplomats sat stoically at their seats at a table near the back of the great hall. They listened intently and never moved from their places.

Nearly every seat was full in the General Assembly hall and there was standing room only in the back for U.N. staff and others with tickets to the crisis with France — calling the

(Continued on page 5)

Queen sees no quick end to refugee wave

LONDON (Agencies) — Her Majesty Queen Noor said Sunday she saw no early end to the refugee exodus from Iraq into Jordan and called for more food, medical and other supplies.

The Queen, in London on her way to New York to represent His Majesty King Hussein at the U.N. summit for children, said there were over 40,000 refugees in Jordanian camps and each day about the same number arrived as left for home.

This "seems to indicate it will be a problem with us for some time to come," Queen Noor said in an interview on London weekend television.

The Queen said conditions for the refugees had improved significantly since the early days of the Gulf crisis following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Queen Noor said all the Gulf

refugees now in Jordan were housed in tents and received basic food and medical care.

But she said Jordan still needed blankets and food and medicines remained in short supply.

More than 650,000 migrant workers and their families have already fled to Jordan, including more than 250,000 Egyptians and tens of thousands of Indians, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and Filipinos.

Queen Noor has been an active campaigner for peace in the Middle East and a champion of women's rights and children's welfare in Jordan. Since the Gulf crisis erupted, she has worked to ease the plight of the refugees.

She said she hoped the crisis "can be resolved peacefully and diplomatically and without the terrible consequences of war."

Crown Prince meets Delors EC assures Jordan of economic aid

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Jacques Delors, president of the European Community (EC) Commission, assured Jordan Monday that the community will help it weather the Gulf crisis, an EC spokesman said.

"Delors confirmed that the commission was still disposed to contribute to emergency aid for Jordan, so long as it is used directly and effectively to help those in need," the spokesman said after Delors met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Prince Hassan arrived here Monday morning following a visit to the U.S. and the United Kingdom and was welcomed by Prince Albert, the Belgian king's brother, and senior government officials.

In his talks with Delors, Prince Hassan stressed the difficult situation of Jordan and its fear of an oil shortage, now that Saudi Arabia has interrupted its supplies, which covered half of Jordan's needs, according to the spokesman.

EC help would go to refugees from Iraq crowded in Jordanian camps but also to the Jordanian economy, particularly its deteriorating balance of payments, EC sources quoted by the AP said.

Delors asked for assurances that EC's urgent aid already given was reaching refugees and the Jordanian population, his spokesman said.

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan stops trucks crossing to S. Arabia

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — All trucks crossing into Saudi Arabia from Jordan were stopped Monday by Jordanian authorities in what appeared to be a direct response to a Saudi move to refuse entry to vehicles carrying Jordanian produce to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

"There was no order from any party to close the border" between Saudi Arabia and Jordan, "but there has been an administrative decision to deal with Saudi Arabia's refusal to allow a large number of lorries carrying Jordanian produce to reach their final destination in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states," Dr. Mahdi Farhan, director of the Customs Department, was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Saudi Arabia depends on Jordanian-Saudi trucking routes for much of its supply of meat, fresh vegetables and fruit from Jordan, Syria and Turkey, its main suppliers, as well as other imports from Europe.

Jordanian lorry drivers have complained of "unpleasant" treatment by Saudi border officials for more than two weeks. The Saudi move not to allow trucks carrying perishable Jordanian goods such as fruits and vegetables, was the latest in a series of events that have strained Saudi-Jordanian relations since the Gulf crisis began Aug. 2. The Saudis cut off oil supplies to Jordan Sept. 19 and reduced the number of Jordanian diplomats in Saudi Arabia.

Reliable sources reported that Saudi Arabia's military, trade and cultural

attaches in Jordan had been recalled. A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official said that the reduction could be just an "administrative procedure" and that he would not "read too much into the move." Jordan has said it has no plans to retaliate for the Saudi order to reduce the number of its diplomats in Riyadh.

On the Jordanian-Saudi border, eyewitnesses reported that Jordanian trucks had been ordered to unload their goods at the frontier before they were sent back to Jordan.

Many officials were careful to point out that the Jordanian move to stop all trucks from crossing the border was not tantamount to an actual ban. At the same time, transport officials said that the turning back of trucks carrying Jordanian goods had become "unbearable."

Reports said that up to 25 Jordanian lorries had been turned back at the border point of Umari, about 140 kilometres southeast of Amman, on Sunday alone.

Jordanian truck drivers said that about 200 Jordanian trucks were stuck at the Qatari-Saudi border and another 70 were being held up at the Saudi-Jordanian border. No official figure was available as to how many Jordanian trucks were stranded altogether.

Jordan's land transport industry, which employs more than 100,000 people, has been seriously hurt by the international embargo placed on trade with Iraq, Jordan's main trading partner. Labour unionists believe that if land transport ceases to Saudi Arabia the whole industry would risk reaching a halt.

Islamic leaders see Iraqi flexibility

Baghdad may consider 'certain measure' of pullout — Tourabi

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Islamic leaders are reporting a "certain element of flexibility" in the Iraqi position on the Gulf crisis, including a possible partial withdrawal from Kuwait if a "reasonable offer" is presented to Baghdad.

However, "we are unable to tell you what exactly would be a reasonable offer to Iraq," but the French initiative is one which could be built on," according to Dr. Hassan Al Tourabi, a member of an Islamic delegation which visited Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran last month.

In general terms, "a linkage between a solution to the Gulf crisis and a settlement to the Palestinian problem" is one of the fundamentals of the Iraqi position, Tourabi told a press conference.

If such a linkage was established and accepted, and "if the context is exclusively Arab with no intervention or presence which can distort the considerations of an Arab context and if a reasonable offer that satisfies the Iraqis was presented, then the Iraqis will consider it easy if it involves a measure of withdrawal from Kuwait and a restoration of the right of the Kuwaitis to determine the destiny of their country," he added.

At the same time, the "momentum for war" that is building in the region should be checked to make way for a negotiated settlement of the conflict, Tourabi told the press conference, announcing the outcome of a mission undertaken by the delegation over the past two weeks.

The delegation, whose visit to Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran was

aimed at "exploring possibilities of concord, positions of the various parties involved and counselling and advancing the cause of peace," found that "the stands of the parties involved are not that rigid and the differences are not that deep," said Tourabi, a leader of the Islamic movement in Sudan.

"We found an aversion to war," he said. "There are reasonable grounds to hope for a negotiated peace solution if time is given for a peace process to take its course... (and)... it will be a pity if this opportunity is wasted," said Tourabi.

Although the Iraqi position is flexible, there is also a "determination not to (consider) any unilateral withdrawal from Kuwait and determination to accept the consequences of their position... they are ready to go to war if need be (but) are (also) keen to seek a peaceful solution."

It was the first independent confirmation of what is widely interpreted as a softening of the Iraqi position evident in a speech made by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday in which he called for dialogue instead of threats and pressures to end the Gulf crisis.

According to Tourabi, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia as well as religious leaders of the kingdom, which sought Western military presence in its territory after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, told the delegation that Riyadh was "very sympathetic to Iraq's grievances against Kuwait" but an Iraqi withdrawal and the restoration of the pre-invasion status in Kuwait were the basic Saudi preconditions before any discussion on the issue.

The Saudis are ready to "cooperate all this in any arrangement whatsoever," he said.

A source close to the delegation

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq to free 9 French nationals

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Monday it would free nine French nationals held at strategic locations throughout the country, in the second conciliatory gesture towards France in as many days.

"President Saddam Hussein has issued orders to allow some French guests to leave Iraq in the company of Mr. Gilles Munier, the president of the Association of Franco-Iraqi friendship," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

INA, the report added, "has learned that nine Frenchmen are included in this humanitarian gesture."

Transliterated from Arabic, their names were given as: Bouban Jean Ives, Frank Ouzean, Gerard Wisst, Laurant Lucal, Christophe Corrier, Akbar Ali Ramadan, Din Mahmoud Taki, Hassan Ali Mansour Hussein, and Dorneau Michel Henry Paul.

The Frenchmen are among hundreds of Westerners believed held at key military and other installations which Iraq fears would be attacked.

Foreigners, mainly Westerners, were banned from travelling after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Some 6,000 Westerners are still stranded in both countries. Some are hiding in Kuwait.

But it is not known how many of these Westerners have actually been moved to protect Iraqi installations against a possible attack by U.S.-led multinational forces amassed in Saudi Arabia since the invasion.

It was the second gesture by Iraq towards France in as many days. On Sunday, Saddam complimented French President Francois Mitterrand for offering "positive" ideas to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Saddam called for replacing the language of "threats and warnings" with a dialogue.

Saddam had demanded a process

that leads to simultaneous settlement of the dispute over Kuwait, Israel's occupation of Arab territories and the Syrian military intervention in Lebanon.

The United States rejected that, insisting on an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

But Mitterrand, in a speech before the United Nations General Assembly last week, stressed the need to resolve these three issues while demanding the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

He also suggested a simultaneous withdrawal of the Iraqis from Kuwait and the multinational troops from Saudi Arabia.

In a message to Arabs and Muslims released by the media, Saddam said he intended to initiate contact with Paris. He said Mitterrand's "initiative" could be developed to serve as a foundation for a settlement in the Gulf.

But Britain and France reacted by saying there would be no dialogue with Iraq until Iraq's troops are pulled out of Kuwait.

In Paris, Foreign Ministry sources said news of the release came as a surprise.

French television Sunday screened interviews with three Frenchmen, representing groups sympathetic to Iraq, who had gone to Baghdad to plead for the release of French nationals.

The three, interviewed separately in the Iraqi capital, were the president of the Franco-Iraqi friendship association, a militant of the far-right National Front, and a regional head of an association of French Muslims.

France also denied it was already engaged in any talks with Iraq or that Paris was offering to negotiate with Baghdad in return for a simple promise to quit Kuwait.

"There is nothing between France and Iraq which could be described as negotiations," presidential spokesman Hubert Vedrine said. There was only "normal diplomatic contacts..."

(Continued on page 5)

Rights group assails Israel's closure of schools

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli human rights group Monday criticised the army's policy of closing Palestinian schools, saying the practice constitutes collective punishment and has not reduced violence in the occupied territories.

The report was released at a news conference by Betsalem, which said it reflected six months of research in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The repeated closure orders "intensity the sense that they are, in fact, a form of collective punishment and do not arise from security considerations or a desire to maintain order," said Alice Shalvi, who helped prepare the report.

"There is no conclusive proof that the opening or closing of schools in any way affects the degree of disturbance," she added.

The army, which refused to

talk to the human rights group, issued a statement criticising the report as "replete with factual and legal inaccuracies."

The army has repeatedly closed Palestinian schools since the start of the uprising 34 months ago. The army statement blamed the underground leadership of the uprising, saying it "transformed the schools into a wide basis for acts of violence."

There are an estimated 475,000 elementary and secondary school children in the occupied territories. Their schools were closed for long stretches in the first two years of the uprising, but most have been open since the start of the school year last month.

About 20,000 students are enrolled in six Palestinian universities, which were closed by the army at the start of the uprising. Campuses of Jerusalem University were reopened last summer, and Bethlehem University is to

be reopened starting Tuesday. Meanwhile, a leaflet Monday from the underground leadership of the uprising set down rules for reducing chances the army would raid Palestinian schools.

It urged students to refrain from writing slogans or demonstrating on school property. It banned masks, which activists often wear, and called for "respect for faculty and teachers."

It was the strongest statement on education from the leadership, which has the backing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Betsalem, also known as the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, was founded by liberal politicians, lawyers and academics to keep track of human rights violations.

Its report criticised the army for the vagueness of its school closure orders. "Closing orders

were given without stating the date for reopening, often verbal and by low-ranking officers," it said.

Such action, Betsalem said, "increases the anger felt by the population in general and education staff in particular."

The report called education "a basic right" and said the increasing gap in education between Israeli and Palestinian children "could have destructive consequences."

Betsalem called for the army "to deal with troubles where they occur, rather than through sweeping measures which cause damage to the population as a whole."

The group said it remained to be seen whether Defence Minister Moshe Arens, implementing a policy of greater army restraint since taking office in June, would successfully bring the level of violence down.



ARAB BANK

ARAB BANK HAS THE
PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE
OPENING OF TWO NEW OFFICES IN

KHREIBET EL-SUQ & JABAL AL-TAJ

BANKING SERVICES WILL START ON
TUESDAY OCTOBER 2, 1990

ARAB BANK
KHREIBET EL-SUQ OFFICE

Khreibet El-Suq - Madaba St.
P.O. Box 351 Abu Alanda
Tel. 737650
Fax. 737650

ARAB BANK
JABAL AL-TAJ OFFICE

Jabal Al-Taj - Taj Main St.
P.O. Box 6904 - Mahatta - Amman
Tel. 750806-750807
Fax. 750808

Iran, S. Arabia discuss ties

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud Al Faisal, met in New York to discuss resuming diplomatic relations to end a 2½-year rift between the two states, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said in a dispatch from New York that the meeting took place Sunday at the United Nations headquarters.

The two leaders also discussed the Gulf crisis, IRNA said. It was the first time that senior officials from the two countries have met since the Saudis broke off ties in April 1988, citing terrorism and subversion.

The ground-breaking meeting did not apparently go much beyond both sides spelling out their positions. But it was the most positive sign yet that the two countries may be moving towards a rapprochement amid the political upheaval triggered by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Heating the rift between the two giants would go a long way to drawing Iran into the anti-Iraq camp.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-

called pragmatists, is keen to end Iran's isolation and restore relations with West and its Arab Gulf neighbours, most of whom backed Iraq in the Gulf war.

Iran has in recent days restored relations with Britain, Tunisia and Mauritania, giving momentum to Rafsanjani's efforts. But he faces powerful, anti-Western radicals at home who favour helping Iraq confront the swelling multinational military buildup in Saudi Arabia.

Velayati and Saud met after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Iran's main Arab ally and Iraq's archrival, visited Tehran last month and urged Tehran to end its rift with the Saudis.

IRNA quoted Velayati as telling Saud that the main stumbling block for resuming relations was a dispute over the number of Iranians allowed into Saudi Arabia on the annual pilgrimage.

It quoted Prince Saud as saying Riyadh is "eager" to resolve this issue before the next pilgrimage season in June.

Prince Saud "promised that his government will do its best so that Iranian Muslims perform their rituals in a suitable manner," the agency said.

More than 400 people, most of them Iranian pilgrims, were kil-

led in riots in Mecca.

The Iranian news agency said Velayati stressed that Tehran "is strongly opposed to the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf and especially holy lands."

"Regional countries must cooperate for the security of the Gulf and liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi occupation," IRNA quoted Velayati as saying.

The Iranians view the presence of non-Muslim forces in Saudi Arabia as sacrilege, and have demanded that they be withdrawn. However, the Iranians have also condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

In this context, Iranian leaders have noted that it is time the countries of the region get together to take care of their own security.

The Syrians, among others, have also floated the idea of a regional alliance including themselves, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Velayati said Sunday his country would not break the U.N. embargo on trade with Iraq nor would it accept oil from Iraq.

Velayati, in an interview on U.S. television, also said that Iran was willing to help Western nations in "a collective action" to free their hostages in Lebanon.

He did not give details.

Velayati said it was not tolerable for U.S. and other foreign troops to remain in the Gulf.

"I can tell you sincerely this is not tolerable for all people and all Muslims. They are very sincere about the holy land," he said.

On whether Iran has broken the U.N. embargo on trade with Iraq, he said, "I categorically deny it. We know we have the longest border with Iraq, and practically, these borders have been closed since 10 years ago and now we observe carefully the U.N. embargo against Iraq."

He also denied that Iraq had sent Iran oil or had asked Iran to receive Iraqi oil and said if it did ask, the request would be denied.

"We deeply believe that all of us, those countries related directly with these crises, should observe the U.N. resolutions and this is the best way to avoid military confrontation."

He said a collective action was needed by Western nations to get their hostages out of Lebanon but declined to go into specifics.

He did add, however: "I can say that we as the Islamic Republic of Iran are ready to help to get the release of hostages — all hostages, regardless of nationalities."

Western forces make Mecca pilgrimage impossible — Qadhafi

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Monday that pilgrimages to Islam's holiest shrines were impossible because the presence of Western forces in Saudi Arabia has put them under the protection of Jews and Christians.

Qadhafi, according to the official Libyan news agency JANA, also suggested that the Saudi government be denied custody of the shrines in the cities of Mecca and Medina.

"The foreign forces whose help was sought by the frightened leaders of Saudi Arabia include Jews and Christians."

"Consequently, and since Me-

cca and Medina are under the authority of the Saudi kingdom, they are protected by Jews and Christians," said Qadhafi, who has since taking power in 1969 been at odds several times with Saudi leaders.

JANA said Qadhafi's remarks came in a speech he gave to mark 17 years of "popular revolution."

"It is impossible, it is illogical and it is inadmissible for us to perform the pilgrimage (to Mecca and Medina). God will not accept it and it is not possible for us to go on pilgrimage under the threat of American arms," he said.

"Mecca is now under American protection," said Qadhafi.

Minister warns Israel running out of housing

TEL AVIV (AP) — A senior official said Sunday the Gulf crisis may slow down shipments of trailers needed to house Soviet immigrants because of difficulties leasing boats to the region.

A minister also warned Israel was running out of apartments for the newcomers. So far a record total of 100,952 Soviets have arrived this year and up to 200,000 are expected through December.

Uri Shoshani, the housing ministry's chief engineer, said Israel expected to import about 5,000 trailer homes through December to help handle the influx. Several hundred would come from the U.S. and Britain, he said.

"We see no problems except possible shipping difficulties," said the Middle East, Shoshani said to Israel Army radio.

"Because of the situation in the Persian Gulf it is difficult to obtain ships, as more and more ships become available there shouldn't be any difficulties," Shoshani added. He did not elaborate.

Yitzhak Peretz, minister of immigration absorption, told reporters after the weekly cabinet session. "We are scraping the bottom of the barrel," in rental housing available for immigrants.

Peretz said he also warned ministers that "if immediate solutions aren't found for temporary housing we are able to find ourselves with thousands of immigrants at the airport without any address to send them to."

Peretz, of the ultra-orthodox

Torah Guardians party, said the government should build more public housing rather than rely on the private market.

Peretz also reported that since Jan. 1, 112,586 immigrants had reached Israel, of these 100,952 from the Soviet Union, the Itan news agency said.

A ministerial committee on immigration later met behind closed doors but the session broke up mysteriously early without taking any decisions, Israel radio said.

The committee is chaired by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, a former general. Sharon reportedly said he had to interrupt the meeting and left the room without elaborating.

Peretz's warning about housing shortage came a day after Israel announced that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to start direct flights of immigrants from Moscow beginning next month. This would likely speed up their arrival. Most immigrants now travel to Israel via European countries.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze tempered Gorbachev's promise Sunday by telling reporters at the U.N. in New York that direct flights was "a complicated issue to be discussed further."

The Soviets have balked at allowing Jews to fly directly to Israel largely because of Arab protests against the immigration wave.

Israel expects one million Soviet immigrants by the end of 1992 and as many as two million through 1995.

Sri Lanka probes report on volunteers

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka will investigate Iraq's claims that Sri Lankans are volunteering to join Iraqi forces if war breaks out in the Gulf, a senior official said Monday.

The official from the president's office said the Foreign Ministry would ask Iraqi Ambassador Tariq Ahmad Maroof about his statement that 1,000 Sri Lankans wanted to volunteer.

The state-run Sunday Observer newspaper quoted Maroof as saying: "Iraq plans to recruit Sri Lankans for their war against U.S. imperialists and already 1,000 applications of Sri Lankan Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims have been finalised."

Maroof told Reuters he had received applications from individuals in Colombo.

"Their mobilisation would depend on whether Iraq is forced to fight American imperialists," he said.

He said Iraq had received similar offers from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya and Egypt.

"People from most Arab countries have expressed their solidarity with us and volunteered their services," he said.

Officials of Colombo's foreign ministry and the state-run foreign employment bureau expressed surprise over Maroof's statement.

"This is the first time we are hearing about this," a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

At the Iraqi embassy in Colombo, forms headed "application for volunteers to defend Iraq from Zionism and imperialism" were being distributed.

A form obtained by Reuters Monday sought details of previous military training, knowledge of any martial arts and military-related hobbies and political leanings.

A Muslim politician said Sri Lankan volunteers were probably joining for economic reasons. "I don't think there is any politics involved," he said.

Sri Lanka has issued a statement urging Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and said Baghdad should not have resorted to war.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Oman to mark national day

MUSCAT (AP) — Oman's 20th national day celebrations are to go ahead in November as planned despite the Gulf crisis, the state-run press reported. The official English-language daily Oman Observer quoted Information Minister Abdul Aziz Al Rowas as saying: "National day is a national occasion and the sultanate never stopped celebrating even a single year, whatever the circumstances were." Even when there was war in the south aimed at shattering the national unity, still celebrations went on. The minister was referring to the bloody 10-year insurgency in Oman's southern province of Dhofar where government troops battled leftist rebels to their defeat in 1975. Other countries in the Gulf cancelled public celebrations after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Indian refugee ship docks in Dubai

DUBAI (R) — The second Indian ship in as many days docked in Dubai Monday after sailing from Iraq with 1,800 Indian refugees from Kuwait. Indian consulate officials in Dubai said the refugees on the Akbar, which sailed from the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, were to be flown home later in the day by Air India, which is mounting an emergency airlift for nationals fleeing the Gulf emirate. Another Indian ship, the Tipu Sultan, arrived in Dubai from Umm Qasr Sunday with 700 Indians. The refugees left for Bombay and Delhi on five Air India flights the same day. Sailors from the British frigate Jupiter, helping enforce a United Nations sea blockade of Iraq, stopped and boarded the Akbar off Qatar Sunday to check its cargo. The freighter was allowed to proceed after no prohibited cargo was found.

Turks turn back Gulf-bound ship

BONN (R) — Turkey has turned back a Polish freighter suspected of heading for the Gulf with a cargo of chemicals suitable for weapons production, the West German Foreign Ministry said Monday. A spokesman said that according to Turkish authorities, the freighter Wloclawek was returning to the Belgian port of Antwerp after being stopped with its cargo of chemicals from a West German firm. The freighter docked in the southern Turkish port of Mersin before setting sail for Antwerp. The ministry did not say when the vessel was turned back. The spokesman said the ship had been loaded in the Belgian port with 1,059 tonnes of sodium cyanide suitable for the production of hydrogen cyanide and other poison gases. The chemicals were purchased by a Belgian firm from the Hamburg-based Rotexchemie company, he added.

Two U.S. pilots killed in Saudi crash

DHAHRAN (AP) — Two U.S. air force pilots were killed Sunday when their F-15 fighter plane crashed during a low-level exercise in Saudi Arabia, the U.S. military command said. They were the first air force personnel reported killed in Saudi Arabia since the beginning of Operation Desert Shield began two months ago. The aircraft, assigned to the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing, was on a "routine, low-level training mission" in the southern Saudi desert about 9:35 local time (0535 GMT), officers said. They said the pilots' names were withheld pending notification of relatives. A board of inquiry was assigned to investigate. One other air force plane, an F-16, crashed earlier in Saudi Arabia, but the pilot was unhurt. The latest crash brought to five the number of U.S. servicemen killed in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield. It came a day after the army issued a statement saying the safety record for its personnel was better than in normal times in the United States.

Libya closing Chad opposition radio

ROME (AP) — Muammar Qadhafi's government has closed a Chadian opposition radio station broadcasting from Libya, reflecting an easing of relations with Chad, the official Libyan News Agency (JANA) reported. The brief dispatch quoted an unidentified Libyan foreign ministry source as saying the radio station had been closed. The source "announced that (Libya) ended on her part all the problems with Chad by referring the subject of dispute to the International Court of Justice," the dispatch said. The court, based in the Hague, recently received requests from both Libya and Chad to consider their decades-long dispute over the Libyan-occupied Aouzou Strip. Both countries agreed in a 1989 peace treaty that the conflict over the mineral-rich strip would be referred to the court if diplomatic efforts failed to resolve it.

Cyprus 'strictly implementing' embargo

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus is strictly regulating exports to Jordan and other countries in order to prevent possible violations of United Nations sanctions against Iraq, President George Vassiliou said Sunday. He said Cyprus, a key trading centre of the Middle East, was not only implementing the embargo but had sought to close possible loopholes in order to prevent goods being exported from Cyprus to a third country for re-export to Iraq. "We have gone further than most other countries. Not only have we imposed the embargo on anything that moves out of Cyprus... but we have done something which as far as I know no other country has done," he told a news conference. "Our central bank has issued instructions to all banks, offshore and local, that they should not, irrespective of how much money the client has, open letters of credit or help in any transactions towards Jordan or any other countries which could be used as a centre for the breaking the embargo unless there is a history behind them," he said. Vassiliou said all requests for exports were being carefully screened. "We are trying to avoid what would be legal breaking of the embargo... that is products being sent to Jordan, or Lebanon or any other country and from there changing the documents and being re-exported," he said.

Soviet Union and Israel closer to diplomatic ties

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Soviet Union and Israel have taken another step towards resuming full diplomatic relations with an agreement to set up formal consular ties.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Israeli counterpart David Levy announced the move Sunday after talks at the United Nations, and added that they had decided to consult each other in future on a regular basis.

"We have decided to establish consular relations between Israel and the USSR. In Tel Aviv and in Moscow consulates-general will be established," Shevardnadze told reporters after a statement in Hebrew by Levy.

There is already an Israeli consular mission in Moscow and a Soviet one in Tel Aviv, but the decision to turn these into official consulates-general will raise their status and further warm the two countries' steadily improving relations.

Sunday's announcement was part of a diplomatic blitz by the Soviet Union that went on less than an hour later to establish diplomatic ties with South Korea.

The accord with Israel still falls short of full diplomatic relations, which Moscow has said can only be resumed when Israel agrees to an international Middle East peace conference.

The Soviet Union severed ties during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

a move that led to its virtual exclusion from Middle East peace efforts.

In recent years, the Kremlin has signalled it would like to play a greater role in the Middle East, and U.S. President George Bush indicated at the Helsinki super-power summit on September 9 that Washington would no longer oppose this.

Speaking after nearly 90 minutes of talks with Levy at the U.N. where both men are attending the General Assembly, Shevardnadze noted that "over the past months there have been some positive changes in our relations."

Earlier this month, Israeli Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Science Minister Yuval Neeman met Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow. Shevardnadze said further talks would be held in a week or 10 days to decide details of the consular agreement, including staff levels at the consulates.

He added: "We have decided now to legitimise the process of consultations... I and the minister (Levy) will now be meeting on a regular basis."

Although Soviet and Israeli foreign ministers have met sporadically in the past, the decision to meet regularly was seen as another move that would boost Moscow's influence in the Middle East.

Israeli soldiers convicted of assault in killing

KASTINA (AP) — A military court Monday convicted four soldiers of aggravated assault in the beating death of a Palestinian and criticised senior officers for not clarifying orders on beating of suspects.

Israel Radio said the judgment opened the way for possible trials of higher ranking officers as several members of Israel's parliament have already have demanded.

The four, who were to be sentenced on Oct. 24, were members of the elite Givati infantry brigade, four of whose soldiers were convicted earlier of another beating death in the 34-month Palestinian uprising.

The defendants, a major, a captain and two sergeants, were found guilty of beating brothers Khaled and Eyad Akkai after dragging them from their home in the Gaza Strip's Bureij refugee camp on Feb. 7, 1988.

Eyad, 21, died hours later in Shifa hospital in Gaza City. But the defendants were charged with assault instead of murder because prosecutors found no direct connection between the beating and the death.

At the time of Eyad Akkai's death in the first months of the Palestinian uprising, there was controversy over orders for soldiers to beat suspects.

Officers said the orders were only to beat those caught while protesting, and not as punish-

ment of suspects in custody. But many soldiers said the orders were not made clear.

Part of the controversy arose over a reported remark by then Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin telling soldiers to "break the bones" of Palestinians. Rabin later denied making the remark, and he declined to comment on Monday's verdict.

After his conviction, Major Yitzhak Levit, 32, the senior officer convicted, said that all officers in the Gaza Strip felt at the time of the crime that the orders were to beat suspects as punishment.

He said that in the first two months of the uprising, "beatings of Palestinians were the norm."

"If I am guilty, all the other officers and even the main general of the army are guilty, exactly to the same extent. The army is being damaged by all these trials."

The case shocked segments of Israeli society, as reflected in a question from an Israel radio reporter who asked Levitt whether he saw any parallel with Nazi war criminals whose defence was that "we were following orders."

The court rejected the defendants' claim that they were only following orders.

The court rejected the defendants' claim that they were only following orders.

Prospect of U.S. assault seen to be still weeks away

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the first days after U.S. President George Bush ordered American troops into the Gulf, Washington was awash with speculation about the size of the deployment: 10,000 troops? 50,000?

Now, with Operation Desert Shield into its ninth week, the magnitude of the U.S. military buildup is clear: Roughly 165,000-plus soldiers, sailors and airmen; 420 warplanes; 50 warships. And it's still growing.

Even with this formidable presence, military analysts say it will be another few weeks before the United States has arrayed enough heavy armor to launch a successful ground offensive against Iraq.

Complicating the military equation is the continued buildup

of Iraqi forces in Kuwait and southern Iraq — estimated by the U.S. Defence Department to total 430,000 men as of Sept. 25.

"We're a long way from having any capability to do anything other than behave in a defensive way," said Jack Merritt, a retired army general and former U.S. representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation military committee.

In ordering U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia on Aug. 7, Bush said their mission was to deter an Iraqi attack on the kingdom and, if necessary, to defend Saudi oil fields.

Bush has not ruled out an offensive strike to try to dislodge Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and U.S. Defence Secretary Dick

Cheney said Friday it seemed increasingly likely that Iraq would lash out with military force in response to the U.N. trade embargo against it.

U.S. forces currently are deployed in defensive positions in and around Saudi Arabia.

Three U.S. marine formations totalling more than 45,000 personnel are in position along Saudi Arabia's Gulf coastline, and three army heavy armoured units — two brigades of the 24th mechanised infantry division, plus the 197th mechanised infantry brigade — are fully deployed in defensive position in northeastern Saudi Arabia.

These components, which form the backbone of U.S. ground forces in Saudi Arabia, are great-

ly outnumbered by personnel and heavy armor on the Iraqi side.

"I suspect it'll be the first of November before there is really an offensive capability," said James Blackwell, a military analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington thinktank.

The U.S. air force already has gained numerical superiority over Iraq. There are at least 420 U.S. warplanes — including 14 F-111 long-range bombers and 22 F-117A Stealth fighter-bombers — deployed at about 30 bases in and around Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. Naval fleet in the region totals about 50 vessels, including four aircraft carriers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

77311-19
PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Kanan
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
16:55 Arabic series
17:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
21:45 News in English
22:30 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:05 Documentary
18:35 Des chaires et de lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Doc: "Wild South"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Murder Show/Note

PRAYER TIMES

06:00 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:25 Dhur
17:25 Maghreb
18:42 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifiah Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 642990.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751.
Assam International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 811817, 649632.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and relatively cold and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain in the north-

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

ern parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be northwesterly fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Amman, it will be dusty at times with northerly fresh wind and wavy sea.
Min./max. temp.
Amman 13 / 25
Aqaba 22 / 33
Dead Sea 14 / 27
Jordan Valley 21 / 33
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 70 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.
AMMAN:
Dr. Tayman Al-Saidi 777636
Dr. Rami Al-Hajawi 894788
Dr. Majed Al-Saieeh 851635
Dr. Khalil Al-Jabali 740740
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778536
Al-Azma pharmacy 671035
Nawar's pharmacy 626672
Al-Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Smeisani pharmacy 637660
IRBID:
Dr. Abdul Majid Sababhin (-)
Al-Sharra' pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Fadel (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630241
Rescue 199
Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 691228
Blood Bank 731231
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 625800
Fire Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
AMMAN:
Human Medical Centre 813813/22
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Jabal Maternity, J. Amn. 640412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664174
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843848
Al-Musaher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abadi 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164
Islamic, Al-Mahajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775112/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071

HOSPITALS

Repsent 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200
IBN SINIA HOSPITAL (09)986732
IBBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (022)25555
Greek Catholic Hospital (022)27275
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (022)47100
AQABA:
Palestine Haya Hospital (09)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 Moscow (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:00 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
19:00 Beirut (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:20 Beirut (ME)

Financial institutions offer credit to small, income-generating projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of eight banks and financial institutions have now registered with the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) as willing to offer credit to small-size enterprises and income-generating projects in Jordan and a special IDB office has been set up to process applications for such projects, according to the office Director Yusef Al Zaru.

He said that the office would forward applications for loans to the banks and financial institutions which will, in turn, analyse and scrutinise each request and application before the loan is granted.

The Housing Bank which has registered as one of the creditor institutions for the programme, said last month that it was finalising arrangements to provide loans for these income-generating projects, but was giving preference to plans intended to be carried out at locations outside the capital, Amman.

"The loans programme is designed to encourage capital holders to invest in new projects which can employ local job-seekers, can earn investors added income and can meet the needs of the local community," the Housing Bank said.

The bank said that the volume of loans depended on feasibility studies, on projects and their location, and preference would be given to those in rural regions of Jordan.

It said that applications for loans would be received by the bank as of Tuesday Oct. 2, 1990.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced in Parliament earlier this year that special attention would be given to small and medium-size projects, which can absorb part of the country's job seekers and generate income.

Tourism sector — major casualty of the Gulf crisis

By Joumana Halassa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hope against hope that something could be salvaged from the crumbling tourism industry in Jordan this year has faded away, and most operators and hoteliers are resigned to writing this season off.

Tourism is one of the major Jordanian casualties of the Gulf crisis. The sector has been showing positive signs of growth and recovery after a stagnant period of two years before the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2, which triggered alarms of war in the region.

"We are in serious trouble," said Michel Nazzari, president of Jordan Hotels Association. He said beaches of Aqaba, normally crowded during the season by Italians, Germans, Scandinavians and Austrians, are now deserted, with some of the hotels reporting less than 50 per cent occupancy.

Nazzari said that this year's season was almost over and bookings for October through December were cancelled at many hotels in Aqaba along with dozens of charter tourist flights to the Red Sea port.

Signs of trouble were already evident in early August when tourism was seriously affected by the Gulf crisis, but many operators were expecting the situation to change by the end of September, with hopes that charter flights could resume by early November and continue until March. But those hopes are now gone,

according to Nazzari.

Last year the hotels reported 350,000 bednights during the season, said Nazzari. "This year I believe the number is zero, what with the western media drumming up alarming reports of a conflict breaking out any moment," Nazzari told the Jordan Times.

Finance Minister Basel Jarrah estimates that Jordan lost about 750,000 tourists this year; translated into figures, this means a loss of about \$250 million.

The sad state of affairs is not limited to Aqaba, but also the Dead Sea, one of Jordan's key tourist spots which draws heavy international attraction for the medicinal value of its thick, saline water.

The biggest blow came when a German company deferred a programme under which at least 30,000 tourists were scheduled to come to the area this year.

"In other words 'tourism' industry is in deep trouble," according to Nazzari. "We should do something to solve this serious problem or hotels would be closed if the situation remains the same."

"Another major problem facing Jordan is unemployment; 6,500 hotel employees are threatened by the Jordanian economic situation and the Gulf crisis. Over 1,500 employees were already discharged and 2,000 more are expected to be discharged soon, Nazzari told the Jordan Times.

Brotherhood leader appeals to foreign media to bring Jordan's plight into focus

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior leader of the Muslim Brotherhood Monday made an impassioned appeal to the foreign information media to project a "correct and objective" picture of Jordan's political position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and the hardships it is facing as a result of the crisis and the imposition of sanctions against Iraq.

"Jordan has always sought peace and will continue to do so," said Ali Hawamdeh, a member of the Lower House of Parliament. "It has always remained neutral in all conflicts and advocated dialogue," he told foreign reporters on the fringes of a press conference held by a delegation of Islamic movements in the Middle East and the Orient.

"There is no difference in the position of the leadership and the people of Jordan over the Gulf crisis," Hawamdeh said. "We want peace, we do not want war and we are trying to avert a military conflict in the Gulf," he said.

"Jordan is the only country which is cooperating with our mission," said Hawamdeh, referring to the Islamic delegation which visited Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq in a mission for peace and presenting the Islamic viewpoints on the Gulf crisis. "In fact, some countries did not even permit the visit of this delegation," he said pointing out that His Majesty King Hussein had met with the team before it launched its mission.

"If you look at the history of Jordan, you will find that our country has always stood for justice, dialogue and reason," he said. "This element is being overlooked these days."

On the other hand, Hawamdeh said, "Jordan is facing a critical economic situation."

"We have suffered a serious loss as a result of the (U.N.) embargo on Iraq," he said. "We will lose at least two billion dinars and our economy cannot absorb such a loss."

"Our exports have suffered, our industries are being closed down and our unemployment rate is going up," he added. "Our country is small and it simply cannot withstand it."

"You should bring this element into focus," he told a group of foreign reporters who crowded around him after the press conference. "Only then, the news coverage out of Amman will be objective and right."

Government tries to assess damage caused by returning nationals

By a staff reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Labour will begin accepting applications Tuesday from Jordanians formerly working in the Gulf in order to assess their situation and consider possible compensation for those hardest hit by the crisis.

The ministry is not clear what it will do with the applications because the magnitude of the problem is not yet known, according to a Ministry of Labour official. "The application will be a form of documentation of the potential damage, the crisis could cause to the country's workforce," the official said. "We want to assess their situation and how their return will affect the country," he added.

According to the official, thousands of Jordanians have returned with their families to Jordan since the eruption of the Gulf crisis. He said that at least 30,000 people have returned but official figures are not yet available.

"The Jordanians returning from the Gulf were either deported or were pressured to leave or they simply left on their own because of the possibility of war," the official said. He said the bulk of those returning came from Kuwait; approximately 700,000 Jordanians nationals work in the Gulf states sending home vital remittances.

Saudi Arabia, has introduced restrictions on Jordanians, Palestinians and Yemenis, who form the bulk of its workforce and expelled hundreds of Yemenis and Jordanians in the latest of a series of measures taken by Gulf states against nationals of Arab countries opposed to the U.S.-led military buildup in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has also expelled Jordanian diplomats from the embassy in Riyadh and the consulate in Jeddah. The ministry official confirmed reports about hundreds of Jordanians working in Saudi Arabia being denied reentry after spending their summer holidays in Jordan, or having their work contracts terminated unexpectedly, forcing them to leave. Persistent reports in recent weeks have spoken of thousands of Jordanians being put under pressure by direct and indirect methods of harassment.

Jordanian officials worry about what the possible return of expatriates will do to the Kingdom's already high unemployment rate which is estimated at 15-20 per cent of the total workforce.

The official said the potential labour problem is extremely serious. "They are kicking us around right and left," he said referring to the majority of Gulf states.

Another official said that Qatar and Bahrain have also sacked Jordanians working as advisers with their armed forces. He said all Jordanian officers seconded to the Qatari army had been dismissed, and would be replaced by Egyptian officers; and all five officers on loan to Bahrain's airforce have been ordered to leave.

Church leaders assess relief aid to evacuees, appeal for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the 30th of September 1990, a meeting of church leaders and representatives in Jordan was held at the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) offices in Amman. The meeting was convened by the council's general secretary, Gabriel Habib, who is currently visiting the country to discuss the relief services rendered to the evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait by the churches in Jordan in coordination with all humanitarian service agencies involved.

The participants reiterated that the objectives of their relief programme is directed to all evacuees transiting through Jordan regardless of their ethnic or religious backgrounds. This is rooted in the participants' faith, which requires them to be in solidarity with the poor and the powerless, and in their conviction that human dignity and the right to life are beyond international political and legal considerations.

In a previous statement, the council had emphasised that relief was not only to provide material assistance to the hungry, the thirsty, the sick and the exhausted, but also to respond to the aspirations of the evacuees for justice and dignity. Human beings, to whatever nation they belong, are the gifts of God and should not be victimised by conflicts between rulers or tensions between nations.

In this regard, the participants reaffirmed their intention to continue to extend assistance to the Asian and Arab evacuees. Moreover, they thanked all supporting church and humanitarian agencies in the world and called upon them to increase their contributions to the relief efforts in Jordan.

The relief needs created by the influx of evacuees exceed the resources available in this country and are exacerbating the strained economic situation in Jordan, which has not spared any effort to extend help to the evacuees transiting through its territory or to its own citizens returning from Kuwait and Iraq.

The participants further emphasised that it was not fair to leave Jordan to endure alone the burden of this exception human calamity, which should be the responsibility of the international community.

The participants stressed the importance of consolidating Muslim-Christian solidarity, calling upon all co-citizens to further enhance their commitment to the welfare of human beings as God's creation.

The Middle East Council of Churches and its member churches in Jordan also called for the deepening of national unity to face the critical times experienced by this nation and the possible catastrophes which the region may endure if wisdom and dialogue fail to prevail.

The participants seized the opportunity to extend deep gratitude to all those who facilitated the work of the council, namely the leadership and government of Jordan, and particularly the Ministerial Expatriate Welfare Committee as well as the various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country, commending their sincere cooperation and unlimited support.

Bridges closed on Oct. 4

AMMAN (Petra) — King Hussein bridge and Prince Mohammad bridge over the Jordan River will be closed on Thursday Oct. 4, 1990, according to Public Security Department (PSD) sources. The sources said that on Thursday and Friday Oct. 3 and 5 only 200 people would be allowed to cross into the West Bank each day.



Youth processions pass through downtown Amman Monday as Jordan celebrates Prophet Mohammad's birthday (photos Youssef Al 'Alam)

Celebrations mark Prophet's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with other Arab and Islamic nations Monday celebrated Prophet Mohammad's birthday with ceremonies held in mosques around the Kingdom.

In Amman the occasion was celebrated with processions conducted by scout and Muslim youths from various districts carrying Jordanian flags, posters and portraits of His Majesty King Hussein.

The procession, organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, passed through the

main streets in Amman ending at the Hashemite Square near the old municipality building downtown, where a huge rally was held and addressed by prominent speakers like Sheikh Abdul Baqi Jammo, minister of state for parliamentary affairs, and several representatives of various ministries and departments involved in organising the event.

Muslim youths chanted religious songs and even carried a replica of the holy Kaaba of Mecca during the procession and at the rally, which was attended

by thousands of people. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr attended the event.

On the occasion His Majesty King Hussein received congratulatory cables from King Hassan II of Morocco, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, President Ma'noun Abdul Qayyum of the Maldives and Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Secretary-General Hilmi Nammar.

Also congratulating the King

on the occasion were Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar, Amman Mayor Ali Subhatat, Islamic Chief Justice Mohammad Mheilan, Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, directors of the public security, civil defence and general intelligence departments as well as representatives of official and public institutions in the Kingdom.

Japanese prime minister arrives Wednesday

Jordan, Japan to discuss economic situation, Gulf crisis

AMMAN (J.T.) — Economic difficulties facing Jordan as a result of sanctions imposed on Iraq for its takeover of Kuwait, Aug. 2, will be one of two main topics for discussion here between Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Jordanian leaders, according to the Japanese Embassy here.

Another topic will be developments in the Gulf region and prospects of settling the problem by peaceful means, according to an embassy statement Monday.

The statement was issued on the eve of Kaifu's arrival here, Wednesday afternoon, on the second leg of a Middle East tour which, beside Jordan, includes Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The statement said that the

two-day visit was a clear indication of Japan's sincere interest in the well-being of the Middle East region, its peace and stability.

Japan has pledged \$2 billion to Jordan, Turkey and Egypt, among the hardest hit countries to apply sanctions on Iraq; in addition, Japan has earmarked another \$2 billion for the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

According to the statement, during Kaifu's seven-day trip, Japan expects frank exchanges of opinions with the leaders of the five countries on the events in the Middle East and the Gulf and cooperation with these countries to resolve the present volatile situation.

Jordan, which established diplomatic relations with Japan at ambassadorial level in 1974, bolstered relationship with Japan

Cerebral Palsy Foundation starts fund-raising campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — Official statistics in Jordan show that the country has at least 10,000 cerebral palsy cases and only 4,440 received assistance from the Cerebral Palsy Foundation's (CPF) five centres, according to foundation President Fakhri Bilbeisi.

"This year the CPF is celebrating its 13th birthday and is looking back with pride at its achievements in assisting families with cerebral palsy cases," Bilbeisi said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, prior to the foundation's Oct. 4 campaign to raise funds to finance the operations of the five centres.

Bilbeisi said on Thursday Oct. 4 that a campaign would be launched to raise funds from organisations, private citizens and institutions to extend a helping hand to the thousands of children with cerebral palsy conditions who receive free medical treatment and therapy at the foundation's centres.



A therapist at one of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation's centres works with a child whose mobility is affected by the disease (CPF file photo)

"Students of community colleges, schools and universities will be involved in the one-day campaign in Amman to collect donations; they will be distributing leaflets and posters in support of their drive to achieve that goal and to spread awareness among members of the public about cerebral palsy," Bilbeisi said.

"The CPF, established in 1977, has succeeded so far to open five centres in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Aqaba and Salt to provide advice and information to families who have cerebral palsy cases, and therapy and treatment without any charge," Bilbeisi continued.

"In addition to the 4,440 cases CPF expects another 750 cases to be registered by the end of 1990, and all indications point to the fact that the number of cases is on the increase," Bilbeisi said.

"The younger the child is sent to the centre for therapy, the greater are his or her chances of complete cure," said Bilbeisi, who advised families to benefit from such free of charge services and save their children.

Bilbeisi said the "palsy" is related to the inability of the child to use his muscles properly, so his mobility is impeded; and "cere-

bral" means that the cause is the affected brain (central nervous system).

He said that injury can happen during pregnancy, at delivery or after birth, especially during the critical post-natal month.

Referring to the national centre for rehabilitation, a scheme which the CPF intends to implement, Bilbeisi said that this centre was operational at the CPF in Amman, offering children a chance to special education.

The CPF, he said, is now holding intensive contacts with the Ministry of Education to open special education classes at schools in Amman to offer the

foundation's therapists a chance to come to the classrooms and offer their much-needed help to the unfortunate children.

"However, this plan requires a special programme and huge funds for implementation, far too greater than the CPF can handle on its own, and assistance from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and international organisations is now sought," Bilbeisi added.

He appealed to all benefactors and organisations to donate generously to the CPF, to enable it to pursue its humanitarian mission.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Guinea

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Guinean President Lansana Conte in which he congratulated him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Guinea's national day.

Italian minister arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tuesday October 2, 1990, Mr. Claudio Martelli, Italian deputy prime minister, will arrive in Jordan for a working visit during which he will meet Jordanian officials to discuss the Gulf crisis and bilateral relationship. Mr. Martelli will hold a press conference at Marka Civil Airport, before his departure from Jordan on Tuesday October 2, 1990 around 5, 30 p.m.

Arab Child Week starts

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of Jordan's celebration for the Arab Child Week which started Monday, more than 200 children took part in a march organised by Amman Education Department in cooperation with the Jordanian Women Federation. The march proceeded from the Islamic Hospital in Amman to King Abdullah Mosque where the children were lectured by a Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs official on childhood and its importance.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
- Plastic art exhibition at the Jordan Plastic Art Association.
- Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artists Maha and Ahmad Al Syoud at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- Two German films entitled "Deutschland wo liegt es?" and "Deutsch was ist das?" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Democracy for all

THE RESTORATION of legitimacy to Kuwait as the U.N. Security Council is demanding in its many resolutions entails much more than the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the return of the emir of Kuwait to the throne. Full restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait requires first and foremost the restoration of democracy to that country and the exercise of the right to self-determination by all its people. And in order to accomplish this feat, the international community must endeavour as a matter of highest priority to enfranchise the hundreds of thousands of lawful residents of Kuwait who have lived all their lives in the country but continue to be denied citizenship rights, including the right to vote and exercise the right to self-determination in contravention of the most sacred principles of the U.N. Charter and the many international instruments and conventions on civil and political rights. It is simply shocking to note that so many residents of Kuwait who have made that state their country and contributed to its development and well-being economically, socially and culturally have been denied for so long their inalienable right to citizenship. It is also even more shocking to learn that there had been two categories of Kuwaiti citizens tolerated by the laws and constitution of Kuwait under which there were grade one citizens with full rights to vote and hold public office and grade two citizens without the right to elect or be elected or hold public office. With less than 20 per cent of the Kuwaiti population able to exercise full citizenship rights, no wonder the political climate there was anything but satisfactory or legitimate in the full sense of the word.

Since the U.N. Security Council is so zealous about the restoration of legitimacy in Kuwait and has been clamouring for it with vigour, it would be in order for it to prepare for or envisage an honest election in that country in which all the "Kuwaiti" people would be able to participate. Otherwise the restoration of legitimacy would remain defective and farcical in actual terms. Such a dimension of the Kuwaiti situation can be added to the list of priority issues that need to be addressed in any negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis. Once full democracy is introduced and the people of Kuwait are granted their full political and civil rights, the process could be extended to reach other Gulf and Arab countries if indeed long-term stability is sought. The West should be profoundly concerned about the introduction of democracy in the Gulf region, in the Arab World and throughout because it is in everybody's interest to democratise. There, the West cannot hope to employ its double standards and hypocritical means and succeed. The peoples of this region, as indeed throughout the world, have to be given their full rights and the chance to determine their own future and destiny free of all outside pressures and threats.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said Monday that the Islamic world celebrates the Prophet Mohammad's birthday at a time when foreign forces occupy the holy land in the Arabian peninsula not far away from the Prophet's tomb and the holy shrines. The invading forces have come to the Arabian peninsula to stem the Islamic nation's drive to spread God's faith and to prevent any attempt by the Arabs to attain their aspirations, the paper said. As the Muslims celebrate the Eid, said the paper, the forces of evil with their various weapons are besieging the land where the Prophet was born and where he led the Islamic forces against the infidels and against the enemies of the Arab Nation. The paper said that given the faith and strong belief in God and in His Prophet, the Arab Nation is bound to defeat the invaders and evict them from the holy land. The holy war which the Arabs are waging against the devil and his allies is a war against injustice and a war to establish justice and equality among Muslims, said the paper. It expressed confidence that the Arab and Islamic people will come out victorious as they did under the Prophet Mohammad who had led his forces to victory over the alliance of the criminals and the enemies of Islam.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday expresses the view that the Gulf crisis is bound to take a long time to settle, and that Jordan is compelled to adopt certain measures to deal with the outcome of this crisis. Fadi Al Faneke says the Americans have not completed their preparations for war because they are awaiting the weather to cool so that their troops can fight and they might not launch a war because of the congressional elections next month and Christmas in December since no one wants to celebrate the occasion with returning coffins. As the confrontation might take a long time, the writer notes, Jordanians have to take certain measures to adapt to the situation regardless of the result of this confrontation. He says that the people of Jordan should be ready to repel any Israeli attack, and through sufficient military preparations, Jordan can convince Israel of the futility of launching an aggression on Jordan. Faneke calls on Jordan to adopt a severe austerity programme, stop paying foreign debts except to those countries helping Jordan and reorganise the country's economic system with regard to prices of commodities, distribution of fuel etc. He says that Jordanians should not wait for others to bring them compensation or good surprises.

Al Dastour for its part discussed the French plan for settling the Gulf crisis and said it offers a real chance for peace and the various parties an opportunity to avert military confrontation. The paper said that the Iraqi president has expressed willingness to open a dialogue with France in a bid to put its peace initiative into practice because Iraq considers this plan as containing elements that can be used as a start for talks on the crisis. The paper said that if the Western countries stopped their threats of resorting to war and resorted to a dialogue and to reason or at least accepted France's plan as a basis for a settlement the world can be saved from a catastrophe. But it said that should the United States persist in ignoring the peace bids from Iraq, then the worst can be expected not for the Arabs alone but for all parties involved in the crisis as well as Europe and the United States.

The View from Fourth Circle

FRENCH diplomacy is like the marvelous French Camembert cheese: it can be slightly tough and bitter on the outside, but once you get through the surface superficialities the inside is almost always soft, smooth and satisfying. French diplomacy is important this week because the initiative which French President Francois Mitterrand launched during his speech before the U.N. General Assembly on September 24 may prove to be the first serious sign of three essential elements that are required to resolve the Gulf crisis fairly, and peacefully:

a) The West must appreciate the fact that this conflict can only be easily exacerbated and complicated by the massive intervention of foreign military forces, and that quiet diplomacy is the best means of resolving the conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions. In other words, Me-no-wimp George, Super-Hormones Maggie and the Fastest Guns in the West have to put away their racist, colonial habits and finally live with the fact that the military might of the industrialised powers cannot perpetuate a world order which has proved wildly unjust and unsatisfactory to hundreds of millions of dark skinned people in the Third World.

b) The West must appreciate that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was not the irrational, spontaneous act of an egomaniacal individual or an entire national leadership. Rather, it represents the depth of despair and madness to which the Arab world has sunk to the point that one Arab country feels it has to obliterate another to make a crucial point about the impact of the distortions, inequities and injustices which have characterised the Arab World since the British and the French drew up the post-World War One Arab political order, and since the Americans and the Israelis have sought to maintain it since shortly after World War Two. If the West seeks to resolve this conflict according to international law, it must appreciate the deeper sentiments and problems which caused the conflict to erupt in the first place, and thereby to assure that international law is equally applied to all people.

c) The Iraqis must appreciate that while they may have the right to use force to bring to the attention of the world a series of bilateral and regional problems which the world has largely ignored, they have neither the right nor the ability to perpetuate a situation of predatory militarism. There are many truths to the political and economic complaints which Iraq raises against Kuwait and the other Gulf oil-producers, but the Iraqi solution of obliterating Kuwait and annexing it forever simply cannot be accepted as an appropriate model for conflict-resolution. Iraq has to appreciate that it must get out of Kuwait, in order to have the Arab World and the rest of the world deal coherently with the grievances it has raised. The initial Iraqi reaction to the Mitterrand speech was generally positive, which suggests that we may be moving onto the path of a more serious exploration of negotiating possibilities than has been the case to date.

We need to distinguish between the things which Iraq

has done: it has done good things by raising legitimate accusations against Kuwait on bilateral issues, by highlighting the political fragility, diplomatic stupor and fiscal irresponsibility of the Arab oil-producing states of the Gulf, and by reminding the world that human dignity cannot forever put up with the West's double standards of zeal and frenzy in applying Security Council resolutions to the Gulf but lassitude and indifference in applying other, equally mandatory Security Council resolutions to Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and other conflicts. But, Iraq has acted inappropriately by occupying Kuwait and annexing it, and the entire world, including all the Arab states, has made this clear to Iraq.

For their part, Me-no-wimp George, Super-Hormones Maggie and the Fastest Guns in the West also have a mixed record: they are right to insist on the application of mandatory U.N. resolutions, but they are wrong to send in a massive military force that is out of all proportion to the essential problems at hand, and that is only certain to exacerbate inter-Arab splits while reviving powerful Arab opposition to the ugly and shameful tradition of western superpower intervention in its affairs.

Enter the Camembert Corps, with the French initiative (well, it's not really an initiative, you see, because the French, being French, and only peripherally related to the rules of the rest of the world only because they happen to share the same Earth, always seek to break new ground in

Pass the crackers

life, love, language and Diplomacy, so this is not a formal initiative, but, oh, ideas or thoughts, or suggestions, or quelquechose de nouveau et de tres Français, but never mind, it's all part of the charm of the mind that made Camembert, whose other eccentricities are forgiven).

The French initiative is important because it seeks to address all the essential points that have been raised by all concerned parties. A reading of the full text of Mitterrand's speech shows a refreshing tone and spirit, a positive attempt to hear the complaints of all sides, and an underlying desire to deal with the real structural problems which have given rise to this conflict, rather than only with the symptoms of the region's malaise. The French initiative holds out the promise of some hope for a negotiated settlement because it is balanced and fair, rather than reflecting the frenzied partiality which has dominated much of the past two months.

The French initiative addresses international concerns by calling for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the liberation of foreign guest-hostages, and the sovereign, self-determinant expression of the political will of the people of Kuwait (all several hundred thousand of them and their \$200 billion... but perhaps that's a bit too mean-spirited for today's festival of croissants and Camembert cheese, so, for the moment at least, never mind the magnitudes of Arab nationalism and pass the crackers).

Then, we work for good neighbourly relations among all states in the region, with problems solved through dialogue and negotiations, according to the principles of international law. Problems in the Gulf, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine and other places would be resolved through direct negotiations, whose results would be sealed and guaranteed by an international conference.

(Zut alors! You ask in desperate irritation but secret admiration: what makes the French so French? Listen to this part of the Mitterrand speech about the international conference: "Au bout du chemin, on retrouve l'idée de la conférence internationale, garante de l'exécution de l'accord et catalyseur de toute négociation réussie." My unofficial translation: "at the end of the road, once again we meet up with the idea of the international conference, guarantor of the implementation of [bilateral] agreements [among neighbouring states] and catalyst for all successful negotiations."

What a contrast! While Me-no-wimp George and Super-Hormones Maggie push forward the frontiers of diplomacy driven by stirrings in one's loins rather than in one's brains, the French president has us and the international conference running into one another at the end of a long road, like lovers destined to meet and to embrace, inexorably drawn to one another by whiffs of perfume which move us deeply but which we cannot touch; but, at this early and delicate stage of the courtship between us and the international conference, never precisely spelling out our inevitable meeting at the end of the

road, instead only alluding to it so that neither of us is scared, but both are reassured.

Finally, Mitterrand states frankly, yet with a matter-of-fact dignity that strikes me as appropriate, that the world has to face up to its responsibility for previous Security Council resolutions which have never been implemented. He adds that all people should have equal access to the principles, and the consequences of "right", and recognises that people will not accept others' rights if they are excluded, denied or rejected from right's benefits.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the Iraqis should have responded relatively positively to the French initiative. The lesson we could draw from this week's events is that a negotiated, peaceful resolution of the conflict is possible, but only if the root causes of Middle East tensions are addressed while the consequences and symptoms of those tensions (the Iraqi invasion, the international military buildup) are simultaneously dealt with according to international law. The precise content, order and sequence of the elements of the French initiative will have to be worked out. Changes will have to be made to make the proposals acceptable to all. But the important thing here is that we have started identifying the key principles that must be affirmed for a peaceful solution. They are principles that are largely acceptable to the Arab World, while coinciding with the dictates of international law.

France has provided an important sign of how realism and passion can be combined to create honest and workable diplomacy. This is a good way to start the third month of the crisis.

Mission over, Germany united again

By Martin Nesirky
Reuter

WEST BERLIN — Mission accomplished, the World War II allies which beat Hitler relinquish sovereignty over Berlin and Germany at the stroke of midnight on Tuesday.

Forty-five years after rolling into the ruins of Berlin, the allies — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — are closing one of the most extraordinary and complicated chapters in modern European history.

German aircraft will soon be able to fly to Berlin again because allied control over airspace is being revoked. Sealed British military trains will stop shuttling along corridors from West Berlin through East Germany to the west.

Soviet army jeeps will no longer zip down West Berlin's chic boulevards and Western patrols will cease visiting drab corners of the city's east to show the flag and raise spirits.

The British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) reporter in Berlin will no longer be a

war correspondent with the rank of major. He may even have to leave his requisitioned home.

"Our aim was to maintain Berlin's status, and thereby to safeguard the security of the city, but also to keep open the German question, whatever the difficulties," said Michael Burton, minister at the British mission in West Berlin.

There were certainly difficulties. Moscow blocked West Berlin for a year in 1948-49. East Germany sealed it off with the Berlin Wall in 1961. Soviet and American tanks stood barrel to barrel in the city.

But once the wall fell last November as the East's communist system collapsed, unification became inevitable and the German question was answered. Unity day is on Oct. 3.

"We can now relinquish our rights and responsibilities, now that Germany is to be unified in freedom and democracy," Burton said in an interview at the vast British headquarters

next to the stadium where Hitler staged the Olympic Games in 1936.

The four powers and the two German states signed a treaty on restoring German sovereignty in Moscow on Sept. 12, drawing a line under World War II after nearly half a century.

Some 360,000 Soviet troops will withdraw from East Germany and the Western allies will simultaneously pull out of West Berlin, where they have a combined strength of about 12,500 men. Allied forces in West Germany will also be cut back.

After the Nazis were defeated, the Soviet Union and Poland received large tracts of Germany. The remainder was split into four occupation zones. Each power was also given a sector of Berlin and the right jointly to rule over Germany.

But the forced camaraderie of world war soon switched to the political tension of the cold war. West Berlin, an enclave deep inside East Germany, was a regular flashpoint.

The Russians stalked out of the allied Kommandatura, seat of four-power administration, in 1948 and slapped a blockade on West Berlin. Western allies kept the city supplied in a tense year-long air lift underscoring their commitment.

Moscow soon handed control of East Berlin to East Germany as its capital, a move the Western allies maintained was illegal under status agreements.

The Soviet Union considered West Berlin a self-contained entity and objected to Bonn considering it as one of West Germany's federal states.

The Western powers stuck pedantically to the letter of the accords that established allied rights and continued to issue special decrees right up until this month.

Allied law regulated security in West Berlin to the end. Balloons and kites could not be flown and Germans could not carry weapons without allied permission. The death penalty was only abolished two years ago. Bonn did away with

it in 1949.

When it came to Nazi war criminal Rudolf Hess, it was the Russians who were pedantic. Hitler's deputy was kept at Spandau prison in the British sector of Berlin for 40 years until his death in 1987. He was alternately guarded by the four allies.

Towards the end of his life, the Western powers favoured setting him free but Moscow always vetoed his release.

Within weeks of his death, the British demolished the jail and began building a shopping centre for their army personnel.

At that stage, no one could have forecast the wall was going to fall. The Britania centre was opened just this month and will probably be handed to the Germans when the allies leave the city. Other property will also be returned.

Bonn has asked the Western armed forces to stay in Berlin until Soviet troops have gone. But the three Western missions, or military governments, will cease to operate Tuesday. They are merging with their

countries' embassies in East Berlin and their consulates-general in West Berlin.

West Berlin police have even begun to stop off-duty allied motorists for speeding and breath tests, something they would never have dared do before, diplomats say.

Given the pace of events, much is still being decided about the transition to full German sovereignty and allies are likely to work with Germans initially on air control, for instance.

Future arrangements in areas such as intelligence, out of the political spotlight, are shrouded in silence.

For long a capitalist island in a Communist sea, West Berlin became an ideal listening and intelligence post for the allies, particularly Americans, just an hour's drive from the Polish border and surrounded by Warsaw Pact troops.

The three Western powers also kept special military missions in Potsdam attached to Soviet forces in East Germany. Moscow has a similar set-up in West Germany.

OPEN LETTERS

Give peace a push

An open letter to American parents

WE, the mothers of Jordan, sadly watched a television interview with the parents of American soldiers deployed in the Gulf. We are very grieved by the predicament of these human beings.

We hate to see these fine boys being sent to protect the interests of oil companies.

We ask you to help prevent a war that is everyday inching closer to your children stationed there.

The war can be prevented just as easily as it was planned many months ago, and you can help prevent it. Let those few powerful men resolve their differences over the conference table — not over the bodies of your and our sons and daughters.

This war will have no winners — only profiteers. If war should come, only your Defence Department — which did not want its budget cut by Congress — the defence contractors, and oil companies will profit.

Iraq was armed by your government over the past ten years. Now these same arms will be used against your own children. The men who approved this policy to sell the weapons are the same men who made the decision to send your children to the Middle East. If your government was not capable of making the right decisions then, why would you trust them to make the decision for your children now?

We have lived through four wars here. We know the emptiness and sorrow that result from burying one's own children. Don't be fooled into thinking this is for a good cause. The soldier on the evening news last week summed it up when he said that they were there to prevent the price of gasoline from rising a few cents. This is not a reason for war or the death of your children. We wonder if this soldier knows that each time the price of oil rises one dollar, oil companies make \$60 million. President Bush was an oilman before becoming a politician. Will he be able to forget his past association and many friends in the oil business or will he remember that it is your children he has asked to protect his friends' oil profits?

We have been invaded many times over the centuries and we know these things just don't happen by chance. A meeting held in the U.S. two months before the invasion anticipated "problems with Iraq in two months time." We all are the captive audience to events neatly planned long ago.

This will not be another Panama or Grenada. Your child will face battle-hardened, Western-equipped soldiers that number over one million strong.

Wrong have been committed on both sides. So do not let your children be pawns on the chessboard of ambitious leaders and oil company executives.

Please think about what we have said. We all know from past experiences and sorrowful hearts the horrific results of war. Please, before it is too late, call and tell the president at (202)456-1414 and your representatives at (202)224-23121 to find a peaceful solution to this problem. It can be done, and the solution can start by guiding your leaders in making the wisest decisions. They were elected by you, make them listen to you, get involved, you can make all the difference.

We pray for you and ask for your prayers in return.

Jordanian Mothers
P.O. Box 8431

What right have you?

Dear Mrs. Thatcher/Mr. Bush,

FOR some five weeks now my colleagues and I have been listening and watching our so-called democratic government movements in the Gulf crisis. We have decided to put pen to paper and let you know our feelings.

We are supposed to be a democratic country. We voted for our present government, so what right have you Mrs. Thatcher to send troops to an area that has in reality got nothing to do with British rule? What right? In my opinion and that of many other British nationals, you have followed Mr. Bush when we believe in democracy. It is total hypocrisy and typical of your government to do so. If Mr. Bush in his so-called democratic ways wants to involve his people and nation in this matter, why on earth doesn't he sit down and discuss it amicably and peacefully with the politicians of the world. We live in the twentieth century, not the 17th or 18th. Someone, somewhere must have the right solution, a peaceful solution. Wars throughout the history of our planet have in my opinion, not solved a damn thing. I do realise people have their own opinions... well, this is my opinion and that of my colleagues in Iraq at present. How many of you and your government like to be sitting where we are? Not many, if any at

And in the past five weeks it has taught me the reality of life. I decided to come to Kuwait and work, not expecting or realising any foreseeable problems. That was my decision, however. My wife and two children expect me to be treated in the best possible way and to be protected whenever needs arise in the country of work. Now that has not happened. Your embassy in Kuwait did an appalling job in handling such matters and information was very limited. If it were not for the BBC, we would not have gotten as much information as we did. Do not get me wrong, Mrs. Thatcher. The British passport holder can only expect limited protection and I am telling you we received literally nothing.

This Gulf crisis has nothing to do with me, you or anyone else for that matter, except the people of the Arab nations. It is their problem, not ours. I, my colleagues and those of other nationalities implore you and your government to avert the war and concentrate on a peaceful solution. This, we believe, would enhance your chances (with even a greater majority) at the next elections. We are not pawns on a chess board for heavens sake. We are human beings with a right to live and die as we choose, not at the government's decision, but ours.

I realise that you will have received many letters and correspondences from other nationals and ex-pats. My feelings are, you will take little notice of any of them. I hope my feelings are wrong and that you do take notice. I am sending copies of the letter to many of the national newspapers in the U.K. and will also send a copy to Mr. Bush, hoping that someone, somewhere will see it and stop to think of the people who are in Iraq, especially the nationals. Oh, by the way, Mrs. Thatcher, I am a diabetic with sufficient insulin until the end of October. With the blockade on at present, I foresee problems getting further supplies which will result in me actually dying. Death, Mrs. Thatcher, and if it happens, I only hope you can live with it. I could not.

I will sign off now, even though there is a lot more to write. Peace is what the majority in the world want. I and my colleagues are some of these people.

Yours sincerely,

John York/British citizen in Iraq

The above letter, handwritten, was faxed to the Jordan Times by the Iraqi News Agency in Amman.

Nobel committee wants more help in picking peace prize winner

By Alister Doyle

Reuter

OSLO — The guardians of the Nobel Peace Prize want more international help in picking the winners of the world's top accolade — and avoiding gaffes.

The five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee, which will award the 1990 prize on October 15, is trying to set up a group of contacts worldwide — perhaps five or six people — to help research into candidates who reach a secret short list.

"We have already started very tentatively developing regional contacts who can then give us valuable input into these studies," said Geir Lundestad, director of the Nobel Institute. In the

past, such studies had been compiled from Oslo.

"We don't claim a perfect record in any way," Lundestad told Reuters. "There are some individuals who did receive the prize who should probably not have received it, although I would not specify those."

"I certainly feel there is a major omission on the list of laureates and that is Gandhi," said Lundestad, who is secretary to the committee and attends its meetings but does not have a vote. Indian independence hero Mahatma Gandhi reached the short list but never won.

The prize, first awarded in 1901, provokes torrents of abuse and praise. When the 1989 prize went to the Dalai Lama, support-

ing of Tibetan independence hailed the decision while Peking bitterly attacked it.

The most public row in recent years was in 1973, when two committee members resigned, furious that the other three voted the award to then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Vietnam's Le Duc Tho for efforts to end the Vietnam war.

Lundestad declined to name any of the 1990 candidates.

An informed source, however, said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, South African Nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, Czechoslovak President Václav Havel, U.S. President George Bush and Pope John Paul II were among those nominated.

Various popular movements in

Eastern Europe, the International Olympic Committee and the Red Cross were also on the list.

The prize—a medal, a diploma and a cheque for four million Swedish crowns (\$700,000)—will be handed over at a ceremony in Oslo on December 10.

Lundestad said the Nobel committee also wanted to encourage more nominations for the award, named after Alfred Nobel, the Swedish inventor of dynamite.

Despite revolutions sweeping Eastern Europe, and ending of the cold war and moves towards peace in many regional conflicts outside the Gulf, the committee got just 100 nominations.

"This is on the high side for recent years, but still surprisingly

low... when you think how easy it is to be nominated," he told Reuters.

Thousands of people around the world, including all members of national parliaments and professors of history, law and political science, can make nominations—simply by writing to the Nobel committee before the end of February each year.

Most of the nominees for the 1990 prize are individuals. Twenty-six are organisations or groups.

Among those not nominated were former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, once tipped as a favourite for the award with Gorbachev, a source said.

The prize has already become more international — up to 1960,

it went almost exclusively to West Europeans and Americans. Before the Dalai Lama, the U.N. peacekeeping forces won in 1933 and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias in 1987.

Lundestad said there were many strong contenders for 1990.

"These are very optimistic times in many ways. We see very positive things happening in many different corners of the world, so this is a luxury choice."

Even with more international help, the committee will still make the final choice. Appointed by Norway's parliament but independent of the government, the committee includes an author, a former prime minister and a union leader.

Lundestad said committee

membership would stay Norwegian-only.

"If there were foreigners on the committee you'd run into all kinds of difficulties—who should they represent except themselves—blobs of countries, or what," Lundestad asked.

An award for Gorbachev, most favoured for the prize in a newspaper poll taken in Norway last year, or for any of the new leaders of Eastern Europe would mark a dramatic shift.

Apart from one occasion, only dissidents from the region have won — with Poland's Solidarity leader Lech Walesa winning in 1983 and Soviet human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov in 1975.

The committee was harshly criticised in 1985, when West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl led calls for it to reverse a decision to give the prize to U.S. and Soviet doctors campaigning for nuclear disarmament.

Yevgeny Chazov, the Soviet doctor who jointly received the prize, was a deputy Soviet health minister who had signed a letter in 1973 widely seen as the start of an official campaign against Sakharov.

Mandela was repeatedly nominated during his 27 years in jail — before his release in February. The prize has twice gone to South African campaigners against apartheid — to Desmond Tutu in 1984 and Albert Lutuli in 1961.

EC assures Jordan of aid

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan expressed pessimism about the Gulf crisis, according to the source. He condemned the invasion of Kuwait but repeated Jordan wanted to act as a mediator. He expressed fear that the accelerating events in the Gulf would lead to war, the spokesman said.

EC policy has been to support those states worst affected by the severing of economic ties with Iraq to make it easier for them to impose the U.N. embargo on trade with Baghdad.

EC ministers are scheduled to meet in New York to decide how much aid to give Jordan, Egypt and Turkey, the three states hardest hit by the U.N. embargo.

The commission has proposed giving 1.5 billion European currency units (\$2 billion), half to come from the EC budget and

half directly from member states. But the 12 have failed to agree how to share the burden.

EC sources said the ministers may agree to releasing the funds from community coffers but could reserve judgement on the contributions individual member states should make.

The Crown Prince also discussed ways to improve dialogue between Europe and the Arab states.

The Prince spoke in favour of setting up a Mediterranean and Middle East security forum modelled on the 35-nation conference on security and cooperation in Europe (CSCE), as suggested by Spain and Italy, the EC spokesman said.

Later Monday, Prince Hassan returned home from his U.S. and European tour and was met at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein.

Iraqi flexibility seen

(Continued from page 1)

the Saudi leadership also took a firm position, saying it would drop "all flexibility" if any Islamic movement under the umbrella of the delegation undertook any "anti-American attack."

In official terms, the 21-member delegation represented the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, and Syria, the Islamic movement of Sudan, the Al Nahda movement of Tunisia, the Herzb-Islami of Pakistan, the Rafah group of Turkey, the Islamic party of Malaysia and the corrective and guidance movement of Algeria. In essence, all these groupings are variations of Muslim fundamentalists who have taken a serious view towards the non-Arab, non-Islamic content in the multi-national force assembled in Saudi Arabia, which houses Mecca and Medina, Islam's two holiest shrines.

The delegation, which was mandated by a Sept. 12-15 conference in Amman to seek possibilities of a negotiated settlement to the Gulf crisis, reaffirmed its opposition to the Western presence in Saudi Arabia. It was headed by Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifeh, spiritual leader of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood, and included Judge Hussein Ahmad (Pakistan), Rashid Al Gannouchi (Tunisia), Hassan Huweidi (Syria), Ibrahim Shukri (Egypt), Kamel Al Sharif (Jordan), Abdul Hadi Awanek (Malaysia), Yassin Abdul Aziz (Yemen), Mawaz Shafiq (Pakistan), Ibrahim Ghosheh Chumies (Palestine), Adel Hussein (Egypt), Maffoud Nabha (Algeria), and Nabibuddin Arbekan (Turkey) in addition to Tourabi.

Ibrahim Massoud Khreisat (Jordan), Khalil Al Ahmedi (Pakistan), Mahdi Ibrahim (Sudan), Ahmad Azzeddin (Egypt), and Abdul Rahman Koraisi served as consultants.

The movements represented by the delegation agree that any solution to the Gulf crisis "must necessarily involve the withdrawal of all forces, withdrawal of Iraq with consideration to its legitimate grievances and the right of the Kuwaiti people to determine their fate and

the linkage of this problem with the Palestinian problem," according to a summary of a six-page statement read out by Khalifeh at the outset of the press conference.

Reporting on the delegation's talks in Tehran, where it was received by supreme leader Ali Khamenei, President Hashemi Rafsanjani and other officials and religious scholars, Tourabi said while Iran insisted on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait the possibility remained strong that the Iranians would join the Iraqis in the event of a war.

"Iran still insists on the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and of foreign forces" from Saudi Arabia, Tourabi said. "But if war erupts, Iran might give priority to (the presence of foreign forces) over other issues and view the presence of the foreign forces much more seriously."

Tourabi also warned that there could be no "limited war" in the region and that Muslims would rise up and fight. "If there is an eruption of hostilities, it will not only be the Iranians but many areas in the Muslim World would resist and (wage) jihad."

"Jihad does not translate into holy war," he added. "It will be jihad in all forms of struggle, from powerful expression of opinion, individual acts of resistance and aggression and targeting the enemy in an all out war wherever he is."

He argued that such a scenario was a strong possibility since "there is a sacred element, which is the presence of foreign non-Muslim forces in the holy land and this is a very explosive element."

According to the delegation's statement presented at the press conference, "the absence of Islamic order is responsible for the division, ideological and regional, and leads Muslims to conflict."

The statement also appealed for a "more comprehensive attitude to the crisis which averts further crises in the area," and to "Muslim rulers to save blood and protect the sanctity of this area and protect their holy land, territories and wealth."

Bush signals major shift

(Continued from page 1)

the event.

Bush praised the Soviet Union for collaborating with the United States in a worldwide cutoff of trade with Iraq and said the superpowers "had indeed put four decades of history behind us."

"More than ever before, Bush said, the United Nations is now 'a centre for international collective security.'"

Praising the U.N.'s resolve, Bush said, "This challenge is a test we cannot afford to fail. I am confident we will prevail."

The Gulf crisis and the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, along with the ballistic missiles "that can rain destruction upon distant peoples," contrasted with the rosy picture of a world emerging from cold war tensions.

"We've seen a century smothered by barbed threats and barbed wire give way to a new era of peace, cooperation and freedom," the president said.

U.S. officials said on Sunday that the United States, the Soviet Union and a number of other nations have begun drafting resolutions to take action against Iraq if the squeeze does not force Iraq to release its hold on Kuwait. But Shevardnadze said Monday, through his translator, that "so far, there is no such thing going on."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that Iraq should be forced to pay for the damage it has caused Kuwait after Baghdad withdraws its troops.

Interviewed on U.S. television morning news shows, Thatcher said that Iraqi troops should be forced to face trial for any crimes committed in Kuwait.

"Many people will now be concentrating on the terrible damage and

harm that's been inflicted on property and people alike and say, look, you just can't get away with this," Thatcher said. "When you have withdrawn, you will in fact have to pay compensation for these things."

British officials said Britain and the United States were considering seeking a United Nations resolution to demand reparations from Iraq for damage inflicted on Kuwait.

Shevardnadze thought Bush's speech before the General Assembly was positive and constructive. Iraq rejected everything Bush said about the Gulf.

Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari, who remained seated through Bush's speech, said: "We believe that the action of the United States, although it is... authorised by the Security Council, is illegal because any action, military or otherwise, authorised by the Security Council, should be done collectively under the authority of the Security Council rather than individually..."

"Apart from this, the nice wishes to the rest of the world were fine," said Anbari.

"But as far as Iraq, or the government is concerned, we disagree with everything he said."

Anbari added: "We do support any peaceful settlement of the situation, or of the crisis. Fortunately he did mention he would prefer to have a peaceful diplomatic solution."

Shevardnadze, interviewed outside the General Assembly hall, said: "It was a very good speech, it gives strong support to the United Nations and strong support to the positive trends developing in the world."

The Soviet foreign minister said in Russian, through his translator, that "this is a very constructive speech."

Anbari said Iraq would defend its position when he speaks to the General Assembly Monday evening.

Iraq to free 9 French

(Continued from page 1)

between officials concerning the hostages."

He also said there had been no direct telephone contact between the leaderships in Paris and Baghdad.

As for the release of nine French nationals, that would not alter France's demand that all foreigners be freed, Vedrine added.

Vedrine said Mitterrand's four-point plan for a negotiated settlement stipulated that Iraqi troops must be

withdrawn from Kuwait before any talks can begin.

"One must be very precise: There has been a misunderstanding on one of these points," Vedrine said on French television.

Mitterrand had proposed that if Iraq freed all "hostages" and announced its intention to withdraw from Kuwait, "everything would become possible."

"This word intention is very important, but it does not lead on to negotiations (on Iraq's grievances and the wider Middle East conflict).

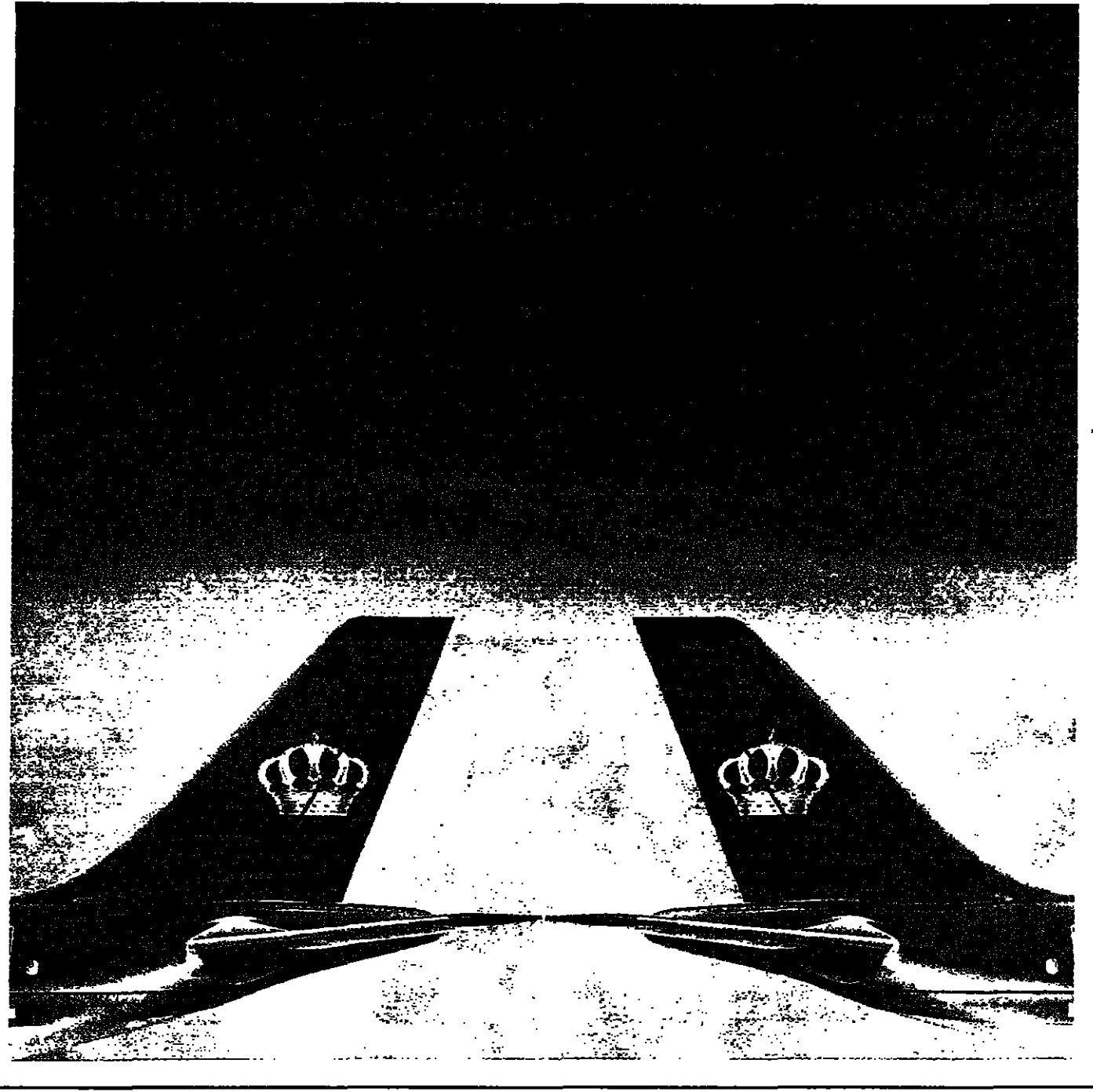
DISCOVER THE WORLD FROM THE GATEWAY OF ROYAL JORDANIAN

Amman, a modern city 3,000 years old, has been the crossroads of civilizations for centuries. Today, it is still the gateway to both the western and eastern worlds.

Discover the world from Jordan, the home of Royal Jordanian. With a network spanning the globe from North America to the Far East, Royal Jordanian flies you to the world on the aircraft of tomorrow.

On your way to discovering the world, discover what a difference enjoyable travel on Royal Jordanian can be.

ROYAL JORDANIAN



THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 604696
P.O. Box 7806 AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.

packing, shipping, forwarding, storing, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 604696, Fax: 600682
The 2225 BESMCO JO
P.O. Box 62467
AMMAN JORDAN

EASTERN

PACKING DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING AIR & SEA FREIGHT

TEL: 621 775 FAX: 656 270
TLX: 323 023 POB: 815 408
AMMAN-JORDAN

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swedish tel: 823891

Ricardo 22K

Amman's exclusive gift shop

Italian shoes, leather goods, perfumes, lighters, watches, pens, silverware, porcelain, crystalware etc.

Shmeisani - Grindlays Bank Bldg.
Tel. 669 457

Saudi Real Estate

RENTAL 687821

SALES 687822 CALL SOHA

4 Rent & Sale

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale - furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call

Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 810605, 810609, Fax: 810520

For the best for your MONEY... ADVERTISE in the

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Alhijyah Girls School

Talks every is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 638968

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE

elegant colorful atmosphere moderate prices

shmeisani, tel: 600750 (closed on mondays)

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

Milano RESTAURANT

Best Traditional Italian Pizzas. Selection of the most delicious & favorite Sandwiches.

Shmeisani-Fm. 12 Noon-3:30, Fm. 6pm-Midnight

For Take Away Call 680 670

LOBBY LOUNGE

EL SABELL

DAILY PIANO ENTERTAINMENT

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO

Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey farmers may lose \$200m

ANKARA (R) — The Gulf crisis may cost Turkish farmers up to \$200 million in lost sales to Iraq and Kuwait, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Monday quoting a senior official. "Turkish exports to Iraq have stopped completely after the (U.N.) embargo against that country. The actual loss incurred until now is \$50 million," Osman Ozbek, head of the Union of Agriculture Chambers (TZOB), told the agency. "It will rise to 200 million if the crisis lasts." Officials say Turkey's total losses from the Gulf crisis may reach \$14 billion by the end of 1991. "We had the opportunity of exporting substantial amounts of agricultural products from our southern provinces. The market was largely dominated by Kuwaiti merchants," Ozbek told the agency in the southern city of Antalya. Turkey's agricultural sector mainly exported fresh fruit and vegetables to Iraq and Kuwait.

Dubai to promote itself in U.S.

DUBAI (AP) — The southern Gulf emirate of Dubai announced Monday plans to promote itself in the United States by taking part in Chicago's mammoth international trade show next week. A spokesman of the Dubai Commerce and Tourism Promotion Board said Dubai will be represented at the annual Incentive Travel and Meeting Executive Show to be held in Chicago Oct. 9-11. Already over 4,000 invitations have been sent to American incentive travel organisers to visit the Dubai stand which will be supplemented by several other companies from the emirate. A traditional windtower and a "majlis" sitting area — two traditional Arabic themes — will be a part of the show along with a calligrapher who will write names of visitors in Arabic. An expert falconer will also tour the showground with a trained bird perched on his wrist, a common sight in the country which is aggressively promoting itself abroad.

Bahrain banks lost 12% of deposits

MANAMA (AP) — Bahrain's commercial banks lost 12 per cent of their deposits during the stampede to withdraw funds from the Gulf banks that followed Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, the governor of the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said. But the Bahraini Arabic daily Al-Ayam, said that the public has already started returning some of those funds to the banking system. Stability was quickly returning to the Bahrain banking sector, the governor said. The invasion led to a run on deposits across the Gulf, as residents feared that a war may break out. Bahrain is a major offshore banking centre in the oil-rich region. The total amount of local currency in circulation had risen to 133 million dinars (\$352 million) after Aug. 2, as local residents withdrew funds from the local banks. Since then, the amount of dinars in circulation has fallen to normal levels of around 100 million (\$265 million) in circulation, Saif said.

Iran to build steel mill

NICOSIA (R) — A Japanese company will soon begin building a steel plant with an annual capacity of a million tonnes on an Iranian Gulf island, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said Monday. It did not name the company but said the plant would be completed in 30 months as part of a \$15 billion project to build a complex on Qeshm island to produce five million tonnes of steel a year. The agency quoted a statement by the governor-general's office of Hormuzgan province, which includes Qeshm — Iran's biggest Gulf island just inside the Hormuz Strait which was declared a free trade zone this year.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, September 30, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	660.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	473.5
West German	1230.4	Dutch guilder	371.5
Deutsche mark	418.8	Swedish crown	113.8
Swiss franc	305.8	Italian lira (for 100)	56.0
French franc	125.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	203.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.8925/35	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1520/30	Canadian dollar	
	1.5510/15	Deutsche marks	
	1.7495/7505	Dutch guilders	
	1.2845/55	Swiss francs	
	31.93/94	Belgian francs	
	5.1925/75	French francs	
	1163/1164	Italian lire	
	137.30/40	Japanese yen	
	5.7200/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.0165/0215	Norwegian crowns	
	5.9230/80	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	400.90/401.40	U.S. dollars	

U.S. budget pact faces tough fight

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush and congressional leaders have reached a historic agreement to show the world the United States is determined to cut its budget deficit but have yet to persuade Congress to follow them.

The Senate Budget Committee's ranking Republican, Pete Domenici of New Mexico, called Sunday's agreement "truly a historic event that has a lot of pain in it."

He said it was the first time the United States had decided on a long-term, enforceable five-year plan to cut the deficit.

The agreement, unveiled less than 12 hours before huge automatic spending cuts would have gone into effect, hits Americans with higher taxes on petrol, alcohol, cigarettes and luxury items.

The politically unpopular tax increases, if accepted by a reluctant Congress, will help slash the U.S. budget deficit by \$500 billion over five years.

"There will be some tough fights ahead," Bush said at White House Rose Garden ceremonies celebrating completion of the pact.

The package is to convince financial markets around the world the United States is serious about cutting the deficit.

Continuing deficits have helped raise interest rates, slowed growth in a now-sluggish economy and forced the United States to look abroad for money to make up its shortfall.

Investors overseas have been increasingly wary of the United States, which has tripled its debt

in a decade to more than \$3 trillion and become the world's largest debtor nation.

The negotiators all made political sacrifices to reach the bipartisan agreement, officials said.

"Sometimes you don't get it just the way you want, and this is such a time for me," said Bush, who was forced to abandon a demand for a reduction in capital gains tax and accept new taxes.

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Jim Sasser, a Democrat from Tennessee, said he would back the agreement but added that he was not pleased with it because it did too little for the middle class and did not raise taxes on the rich.

Conservative Republican Newt Gingrich of Georgia, who badly wanted to see the capital gains tax reduced, travelled to the White House but then refused to appear on the same platform with the president.

What such painful cuts purchased was \$10 billion of deficit reduction in the 1991 fiscal year alone. The fiscal year starts Monday.

Little smoke

Stanley Collender, a vice-president with accountants Price Waterhouse, said the pact was surprising in both its size and the fact that these are for the most part real savings. There's very little smoke and mirrors here.

Most items in the agreement have real bite, although it includes some accounting manoeuvres to produce savings, such as \$3 billion from more efficient



George Bush

tax collections and the exclusion of costs associated with the Gulf crisis.

About \$60 billion will be cut over five years from Medicare, which could anger the elderly. One of their advocates, Democrat Henry Waxman of California, said he would vote against the plan.

Another \$45 billion is to be raised over five years from a new petrol tax that starts at \$0.05 a gallon (3.8 litres), climbing to \$0.10 cents by next July 1.

American farmers are among those hit hardest by the pact, which includes a 24 per cent cut in agricultural subsidies.

The agreement calls for slashing \$13 billion from farm programmes by cutting subsidies and reducing the amount of acreage on which farmers can receive price supports.

House of Representatives and Senate negotiators will probably incorporate the budget savings into a new five-year farm bill now under consideration, which includes \$55 billion in crop subsidies.

Algeria expects oil income windfall

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria will earn more than \$1.4 billion in extra revenue this year from higher oil prices due to the Gulf crisis, helping to pull it out of recession, a government report said.

The report also predicted modest growth in all major economic sectors this year except for agriculture, hit by drought.

"The environment created by the economic evolution in 1990 seems at first analysis... to be very favourable to an economic revival," said an account of the report carried Sunday night by the Algerian News Agency APS.

The Algerian economy has been in crisis since world oil prices plunged in 1985, halving oil and gas revenue. Oil prices have doubled since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait to 10-year highs of around \$40 a barrel.

Service on a \$24 billion foreign debt absorbs up to three-quarters of Algeria's hard currency earnings.

The report said oil windfall would give Algeria this year its first current account surplus since 1987 of \$400 million, compared to previous projections of \$1.1 billion.

Algeria will save \$460 million on imports which had been pegged at \$10.7 billion, mainly from lower than expected world prices for agricultural imports.

Also good news for the government of Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, whose National Liberation Front (FLN) faces its first multi-party parliamentary elections next year, were signs that industrial growth is picking up.

The report saw a 4.7 per cent growth in non-oil industrial output this year compared to 2.7 per cent drop last year.

Gross domestic product apart from oil and agriculture is expected to grow by three per cent, double last year's rate. Drought was likely to push down agricultural production five per cent, the report said.

The state budget was likely to show a surplus of nine billion dinars (\$932 million) compared to a projected deficit of five billion dinars (\$518 million) mainly due to an oil tax windfall of 10.5 billion dinars (\$1.1 billion).

"We don't expect property markets (in Britain, the United States and Canada) to pick up until 1992 and don't see the next boom going so high as the last one," he added.

The Bank of Japan said in a

Oil prices ease after Iraq calls for dialogue

SINGAPORE (R) — Crude oil prices softened in Asian trade Monday after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein called for dialogue in the Gulf crisis, but oil product prices remained firm owing to tight supplies and strong regional buying.

West Texas intermediate, a key U.S. crude, traded at \$0.59 below Friday's close of \$39.51 a barrel for November on the New York mercantile exchange.

"If indeed there is a peace dialogue and there is substance, not just talk, crude prices could fall fast, by \$10 a barrel," said a European trader in Singapore.

Hussein's call was issued Sunday. But the consensus among oil traders is still that war is more likely than peace.

"I still think the U.S. will fight in the Gulf this month. But no one knows, and we don't want to start new positions at these high prices. It would be dangerous to speculate now," an Investment House trader said.

Traders also attributed softer prices Monday to news that the U.S. House of Representatives had approved and sent to the Senate a bill allowing the sale of 15 million barrels of oil from the nation's strategic petroleum re-

serve.

"The volume may not be large enough to change the balance much, but it does have a psychological effect of moving the market down a bit," the Investment House trader said.

Traders expect prices of refined oil products, especially jet fuel and diesel, to remain firm as demand for seasonal use in the fourth quarter of the year rises.

"The impact of limited refining capacity and a shortage of the right types of crudes to meet Asian demand will be felt down the road," an international trader said.

Thatcher economic miracle a mirage — Labour party

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party, calling Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's economic miracle a mirage, said Monday it would encourage higher investment to revive flagging production.

But John Smith, Labour economic affairs spokesman, said there could be "no quick fix" if his party ousted Thatcher's right-wing Conservatives in elections due by mid-1992.

"Mrs. Thatcher's so-called economic miracle has been a mirage," Smith told Labour's annual party convention, citing inflation of 10.6 per cent, high interest rates and slowing economic ex-



Margaret Thatcher

pansion.

"Britain's future as a leading industrial nation depends on investment — investment in people, in new capital equipment, new skills and the research and development which leads to successful new products and processes," he said.

Smith's speech had few details of what Labour would do but was heavy with scorn for the 11 years of rule by Thatcher.

After shedding much of its socialist ideological baggage in the 1980s, Labour has regained credibility among voters and has led the Conservatives in opinion polls for 18 months.

Smith reiterated support for the entry of the pound sterling into the European Community's (EC) exchange rate mechanism, which is designed to smooth fluctuations among member currencies.

"Irresponsible tax cuts for the better off and the spend-now-pay-later credit boom fuelled a surge in imports and ignited the inflationary spiral," Smith said.

Under the Conservatives, Britain has slumped to "the bottom of the league table of the major industrialised countries."

Fundamental problem

Smith said a fundamental Brit-

ain problem, a weakness of productive capacity, remained while the Conservative administration had squandered resources.

Anticipating a theme expected to be hammered home in a speech by party leader Neil Kinnock Tuesday, Smith stressed the need to revive investment in training and education, which he said had been neglected.

"We aim to create the best educated and trained work force in the whole of Europe," he said.

Gordon Brown, Labour trade and industry spokesman, said the party was speaking for the "thousands of companies needlessly made bankrupt under the worst inflation, the slowest growth, the lowest investment and the biggest trade gap in Europe."

Labour would redress the "our great failures" of the Thatcher governments — to train, to innovate, to invest for the long term and to release the potential of all the regions.

Political commentators said attempts by Kinnock to avoid the rifts that have dogged many Labour conferences were set back with a split on the traditional prickly issue of defence.

They said the party leadership, the National Executive Committee, was almost certain to be defeated Wednesday when it tried to fend off a proposal to slash defence spending and switch the funds to social programmes.

Kinnock wants to avoid repeating to specific action to take advantage of the "peace dividend" arising from the end of the cold war.

Slide in property prices now a global concern

By Nick Louth
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — Property is usually a cyclical business with values and demand varying from one country to another, but 1990 is proving a year of squeeze for investors and real estate companies worldwide, share analysts say.

"For so many real estate markets to fall together is unprecedented," said Andrew Walker of brokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd in London.

The drop has hit heavily indebted big corporate names from Donald Trump of the United States and Australia's Alan Bond down to individual homeowners who suffer when house values fall.

The United States, Britain, Canada and Australia face the worst fall, but analysts see problems this year for rising continental European and Japanese markets too.

"The European market is still saying it is showing some growth, but no doubt it will come to a shuddering halt in the next year," said Nan Rogers of Brokers James Capel in London.

"We don't expect property markets (in Britain, the United States and Canada) to pick up until 1992 and don't see the next boom going so high as the last one," he added.

The Bank of Japan said in a

recent report it expected the boom in the Tokyo property market to slow down.

But Tokyo shares, which Friday hit three year lows, have been hit so hard by Gulf crisis and oil worries that analysts expect Japan's property market to begin to drop.

The biggest single cause for the overall downturn is the concerted determination of the largest economies to fight inflation whatever the cost in interest rates.

"Property markets need two things — people to throw money at them, and inflation significantly above interest rates," Rogers said.

The conditions no longer apply in most countries, where tight credit has squeezed demand just as a huge surplus from earlier investments spilled onto the market.

Supply was boosted by the global trend to remove exchange controls, relaxed planning laws in Britain and U.S. tax changes which spurred investor interest in real estate.

In Australia, Melbourne's vacancy rate rose to almost 14 per cent from just three per

cent before the government's high interest rate policy began to bite.

"The market is pretty dead. We are looking at the worst oversupply situation in Sydney and Melbourne since the 1970s," BZW Australia analyst Andrew Martin said recently.

The biggest recent shock came in the Netherlands where Rotterdam-based property fund Rodamco part of the huge Robeco Investment Group, was forced by lack of money to end a facility where investors could sell back shares to the fund.

Rodamco faces problems because 75 per cent of its 11 billion guilders (\$5.7 billion) of investments are in the U.S. and British markets.

In Britain the property market turned down abruptly in 1988, while interest rates doubled to 15 per cent in less than 18 months to rein in the overheated economy.

Banks that lent the money to developers are nervously waiting to be repaid from assets often worth less than the loans made to buy or build them.

AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL

requires as soon as possible a teacher of Physics and General Science (full-time or part-time)

Teaching includes physics for IGCSE and International Baccalaureate Courses (equivalent to GCE "O" and "A" level).

Application forms may be obtained from the school, telephone 845572 - 847191 and returned by Tuesday Oct. 2, 1990.

FLOOR FOR RENT

Consists of two rooms, two salons and with central heating. Location: First Circle, Jabal Amman, near Malhas Hospital.

Call Tel: 663469 - 642844 Amman.

TODAY AT

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

LICENCE TO KILL

Performance: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

MOVING

Richard Bryer, Randy Quade

Performance: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **NIJOM** Tel: 675571

Ilham Shahin, Hisham Abdul Hamid

AL MULK LILLAH (Arabic)

Performance: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m. Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Mahmoud Abdul Aziz & Maail Zayed — In

LADIES AND MADEMOISELLES (Arabic)

Performance: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Mahmoud Abdul Aziz - Maail Zayed In

LADIES AND MADEMOISELLES

Performance: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

CAR FOR SALE

Volkswagen Getta, 1988 model, 1.6 litres, automatic gear, mileage 12,500 kilometres, excellent condition, duty uppaid. price: best offer.

Call tel. 843555, ext. 3968.

Furnished Villa For Rent

In Abdoun area, opposite the new American Embassy

Consists of 3 bedrooms, salons in the ground floor, garden and garage.

For more information please call Tel. 826786, and Tel. 813107 after 6 p.m.

Ukrainian nationalists denounce Communists in 2nd day of protests

MOSCOW (Agencies) — An estimated 50,000 Ukrainian nationalists demonstrated in Kiev Monday, denouncing the Communist Party and urging rejection of a new union treaty in a second straight day of peaceful protest.

Demonstrators carried banners reading "the new union treaty is new slavery" and "no to the union treaty." Others branded the Communist Party as a criminal organisation that must go on trial and said the KGB was an enemy of the people, said Petro Borsuk, a secretary of the Ukrainian Republican Party.

The rally began at October Square in the centre of the Ukrainian capital. After 20 minutes of speeches, demonstrators marched

past the republic's Supreme Soviet parliament, Borsuk said. Police observed the demonstration but made no attempt to interfere with the march, he said.

Local police were reinforced by Interior Ministry troops in armoured personnel carriers and members of special riot police units were stationed on side streets, Borsuk said.

The demonstration was organised by Demblock, a coalition between the Rukh Movement and other Ukrainian pro-democracy groups demanding greater autonomy from the Kremlin.

Organisers of the march called for a one-day warning strike to coincide with the demonstration.

but there was no immediate indication that a significant number of people stayed away from work.

Among the demands put forth by the nationalists are that Ukrainian men drafted by the Soviet army serve only in the Ukraine; that the Ukraine refuse to sign a new union treaty between the Kremlin and the 15 republics; and that the Communist Party be declared a "criminal organisation" and stripped of influence in all Ukrainian government organisations.

A similar demonstration Sunday drew 75,000 to 100,000 protesters, far below organisers' prediction of 500,000.

The Ukraine is the second most populated of the 15 Soviet republics, after Russia, and is a key grain-growing area.

Its parliament has declared sovereignty from Moscow and claims the right to overrule national law. Rukh and other nationalist groups want it to go further and take rapid moves toward secession.

The chamber voted by 341 to two to approve a resolution putting the law into effect.

Deputies gave their final approval after resolving a wrangle over religious instruction by deleting a provision that would have specifically allowed instruction in schools outside normal class hours.

The patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Aleksiy II, had appealed to the chamber to leave the provision in, saying if it was left out it would represent "a step back" in the country's move to democracy.

State founder Vladimir Lenin labelled religion "the opiate of the masses." Atheism has been actively promoted since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Under the more liberal leadership of President Mikhail Gorbachev, scores of houses of worship used for decades as museums, halls or warehouses have been handed back to religious communities.

Kazakhstan council bans nuclear tests

MOSCOW (R) — Regional authorities in the Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan have banned nuclear testing at Semipalatinsk, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Monday.

The Semipalatinsk Regional Council cited concern for public health and the area's future, TASS said.

Kazakhstan's parliament voted last November to urge Moscow to stop test blasts at the range in the northwest of the republic.

The top secret military testing range, run by the Defence Ministry, has been operating for the past 40 years. It is doubtful whether the regional council has the authority to implement its decision, which highlights growing environmental concern in the republic.

"Hundreds of nuclear explosions, including air blasts, have taken place in Kazakhstan, subjecting more than 500,000 people to the harmful effects of radiation," TASS said.

Parliament approves freedom of religion

Meanwhile in Moscow, the Soviet parliament ended decades of state persecution of organised religion Monday by giving final approval to a law guaranteeing freedom of worship.

The law, which was approved in principle by the Supreme Soviet on Sept. 26 gives citizens

the right to determine their own attitude to religion, provides for separation of church and state and sets all religions on an equal footing.

The legislation capped five years of change in relations between the Soviet state and religious groups whose followers had been routinely imprisoned or sent to labour camps since the time of Josef Stalin.

The chamber voted by 341 to two to approve a resolution putting the law into effect.

Deputies gave their final approval after resolving a wrangle over religious instruction by deleting a provision that would have specifically allowed instruction in schools outside normal class hours.

China marks 41st National Day

PEKING (AP) — The Chinese capital, already festooned with Asian Games decorations, took on added colour Monday as the country marked its 41st National Day.

The usual National Day banners have gone up along streets in Peking already lined with coloured flags and banners hailing the 11th Asian Games and welcoming athletes and tourists.

To mark the anniversary of the Communist rise to power, the

city's central Tiananmen Square is crammed with more than 100,000 potted plants. The dozen elaborate multiple-flower arrangements that are created in the square each National Day this year include two of Pan-Pan, the panda mascot for the games, and a phoenix, considered an auspicious symbol.

The square was the site last summer of pro-democracy demonstrations that were brutally

suppressed.

The People's Daily, the official newspaper of the Communist Party, ran a front-page editorial marking National Day titled, "resolutely walk (our) own road."

"Though many difficulties and obstacles exist on the road ahead, the Chinese people are full of confidence in their ability to reach their goals," it said, without elaborating on the problems.

Supporters endorse Mazowiecki's candidacy for president

WARSAW (AP) — Supporters of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki have officially endorsed his candidacy for the upcoming presidential election, the PAP news agency reported.

"Poland needs a president who... will become a guarantee of democratic order, rule of law, stable conditions for economic initiatives, and of a respected place for Poland in the international arena," the Citizens Movement for Democratic Action said in a resolution proposing Mazowiecki's candidacy.

Leaders of the movement, known by its Polish acronym ROAD, met in Warsaw to prepare for the presidential ballot which is expected to take place as early as Nov. 25.

However, Mazowiecki has not made any formal announcement about his presidential bid, unlike his main rival in the race — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, who declared his candidacy on Sept. 17.

Ties with Moscow to help Korean unification — Roh

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-woo said Monday that diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union will help spur unification on the bitterly divided Korean peninsula.

Roh said ties between Moscow and Seoul, announced Sunday, will make it "impossible for North Korea alone to resist the tidal wave of change," sweeping the world.

New relations between Seoul and Moscow climax a two-year effort by Roh to develop trade and diplomatic ties with Communist and Socialist allies of rival North Korea in hopes of easing tensions.

Communist North Korea had vigorously lobbied Moscow, its longtime ally and arms provider, against establishing relations with archrival capitalist South Korea.

The announcement of formal relations, made by foreign ministers of the two nations at the United Nations, was viewed as a major diplomatic blow to North Korea. Roh said it was an opportunity for the rigid and totalitarian North to open its doors.

"Clearly, the North has reached the dead end of its isolationist policy," Roh told 50,000 spectators at an Armed Forces Day review of troops. "Inter-Korean relations are thus approaching a major turning point."

Last week, the North opened talks with neighbouring Japan on improving relations, a move widely seen as an effort to counter Seoul's ties to its allies.

South Korea is expected to open trade offices with China by the end of the year and has established relations with every East European nation except Albania.

Roh cautioned South Korea's 600,000 troops to remain vigilant even as change occurs.

"Confrontation and tension continue to hamper the relations between the two divided parts of Korea," Roh said. "We are doing our best to encourage North Korea to step forward into the open world and start on a road of dialogue, exchanges, cooperation and rapport."

2 Belfast 'joyriders' shot dead at checkpoint

BELFAST (R) — British soldiers shot dead two teenage "joyriders" when they crashed through a checkpoint in a stolen car in west Belfast Sunday night, police said.

The 18-year-old boy driving the car was killed instantly when the troops opened fire. A 17-year-old girl with him died later in hospital and a third, aged 16, was detained with arm injuries. A soldier was injured when hit in the leg by the car.

Teenage joyriders from the nationalist ghettos of west Belfast revel in a game of "chicken" seeing who can get past a military checkpoint without being killed. Several have been shot dead in the past.

Moderate nationalist councillor Joe Hendron agreed that joyriding was a plague but still angrily condemned the shootings, saying: "The soldiers are guilty of summary execution."

"These teenagers are like World War II pilots on Kanikaze runs," Hendron added.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, regularly metes out "punishment shootings" to the teenage thieves — they are shot in the kneecaps to try to discourage them.

The new president will succeed President Wojciech Jaruzelski, the former Communist Party leader, who has agreed to step down 4 1/2 years early.

"We think that Tadeusz Mazowiecki has been unable to announce his candidacy yet due to procedural reasons," Jan Litwinski of ROAD told PAP. "We are convinced that he will decide to run after the election schedule is set."

The parliament speaker is expected to announce in the next few days the date for the first general presidential election in more than 50 years.

Walesa, who nominated Mazowiecki, his former adviser and ally, for prime minister in August 1989 is supported by another main political group, the Centre Alliance.

Filipino workers to continue strike at U.S. army bases

MANILA (AP) — Filipino workers vowed Monday to continue their strike at the six U.S. military bases in the Philippines until American officials comply with an agreement covering wage increases.

Primo Galvez, executive vice president of the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Association, said the Americans violated a bilateral agreement covering Filipino employees that allows salary raises based on a survey of 35 Philippine firms.

The U.S. Congress has placed a 3 per cent cap on pay raises for federal employees, including those overseas, but the recent wage survey suggested an 18 per cent increase.

"The main issue here is the violation of an agreement," Galvez said. "If they can violate a provision of the agreement, in the future they can violate any agreement, including the bases agreement."

"The picket will continue as long they do not comply with the agreement," Galvez said.

The federation claims 22,000 members at the six facilities, which also employ contract workers not involved in the strike.

The United States maintains Clark Air Base, Subic Bay Naval Base, and four smaller installations under an agreement due to expire in September 1991.

Galvez claimed that the strike had paralysed operations at Clark and Subic, among the largest American overseas facilities, but U.S. spokesmen said they were operating normally.

About 300 picketers Monday blocked the entrance to Subic in Olongapo City, 80 kilometres west of Manila. Roughly the same number picketed the gate of Clark in Angeles City.

The union called the strike late Sunday.

Clark spokesman Maj. Wayne Crist said the facility was "operating in a fairly normal manner" and U.S. soldiers and volunteers had taken up duties abandoned by the strikers.

Bob Coble, a spokesman for Subic, said "transportation is not what it used to be" inside the base but added that "we are able to do as much as we were able to do."

Meanwhile, a bomb exploded at a U.S. paint firm in Manila early Monday, the eighth blast at an American company in the past week, police said.

Cambodia to accelerate search for negotiated settlement

BANGKOK (AP) — Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos have agreed on ways to push for a negotiated settlement of the nearly 12-year-old war in Cambodia, the official Cambodian News Agency (SPK) reported Monday.

Deputy foreign ministers of the three allied countries ended two days of talks Saturday in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, the report said.

The Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh is battling three guerrilla groups. Peace talks stalled last week when Phnom Penh rejected a guerrilla formula on the leadership of the Supreme National Council, a national reconciliation body formed among the four warring factions.

"The three sides exchanged views and agreed on ways to accelerate the process of a political solution to the Cambodian problem on the basis of guaranteeing independence, sovereignty and peace for Cambodia," said

the SPK report, monitored in Bangkok.

The report did not specify how they would encourage the peace process.

It said they supported the Phnom Penh position on the dispute over the Supreme National Council, in which the Cambodian government demanded that it be given the council's vice-chairmanship if resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk is made the chairman.

The three countries also called for a reconvening of an international peace conference on Cambodia. The conference has been adjourned since its first meeting, in Paris in August 1989, because of the wide differences among the Cambodian factions.

Meanwhile Thai officials said Monday that Thai authorities plan to move 100,000 Cambodian refugees away from guerrilla-controlled camps inside Thailand to a neutral site to await repatriation.

Croatia's Serbs declare autonomy

BELGRADE (AP) — Minority Serbs in Yugoslavia's volatile state of Croatia Monday proclaimed autonomy within the republic and sealed off road and rail traffic in a move likely to exacerbate ethnic tensions.

"The Serbian people must use all means to resist the terror of the fascist (Croatian) government and to protect its human dignity and civil and national rights," the Serbian National Council said in a statement carried by the Tanjug news agency.

The council, an unofficial body claiming to represent the minority 500,000 Serbs in Croatia, said the declaration was based on the results of a referendum held in August which showed an almost unanimous vote for limited self-government. The referendum was declared illegal by Croatian authorities.

Belgrade radio reported that barricades were set up early Monday across roads and railway lines to Knin, a Serbian-dominated city of about 10,000 people near the central Adriatic coast, sealing off traffic through much of western Croatia.

The Serbian-inhabited region in central Croatia has been the scene of recurring strife in recent months.

Members of the minority raided police armories in several towns last week. They carried off large amounts of automatic weapons, ostensibly to defend themselves against what they describe as "Croatian fascists."

Indian Supreme Court moves to cool caste row

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's Supreme Court ordered the government Monday to halt its job quota programme, hoping its temporary injunction will stop a wave of student protests and suicides.

The five-justice bench also advanced the date for hearing arguments on the legality of the programme by two weeks to Oct. 25, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The court said the government could continue preparations for carrying out the plan, which reserves 27 per cent of federal jobs for low-caste Hindus.

The government is assembling a list of thousands of castes qualifying for preference in job applications. Another 22 per cent already are set aside for the lowest strata in the rigid hierarchy of Indian society, tribespeople and so-called Untouchables.

Acting Chief Justice Ranganath Mishra said he hoped that peace would be restored while the nation's highest court was studying the issue.

At least 70 people have died in protest action against the job policy, announced on Aug. 7 by Prime Minister V.P. Singh. About 20 were upper-caste students who committed suicide by self-immolation or poisoning, claiming they were victimised by the plan.

A special session of parliament, opposition lawmakers called Singh a "bloodstained politician" and demanded he resign for mishandling the issue.

Singh, who heads a 10-month-old minority government, suffered a setback when the speaker of the legislature agreed to hold a

debate on a motion seeking to censure the government.

The motion accused the government of bungling its handling of the student protests. None of the parties has objected to the idea of reserving jobs for the lower castes.

The motion, if passed, would put pressure on the government to quit, said Kewal Verma, a parliamentary analyst. "There is no legal obligation on the part of the government to resign, but it would amount to its defeat in moral terms," said Verma.

Members from the opposition Congress Party accused Singh of being "obstinate" for refusing to suspend or reconsider the plan.

"Down, down, resign, resign," they shouted as Singh stood up to speak. He was prevented from addressing the house.

"Can you see there is blood in your hands?" asked Congress lawmaker Ajit Panja. Some members advanced menacingly toward Singh but were stopped by colleagues. "You are a blood-stained politician," said Panja.

Former Congress Minister Vasant Sathe said he was beginning a "fast unto death" until Singh stops "police terror" on the students.

In the northern town of Jammu, 17-year-old student Sandeep Sharma set himself alight Monday in the latest suicide bid to protest the job quotas. He suffered third-degree burns over most of his body.

At least 50 people have died by police gunfire in street battles.

Singh said the policy was intended to seek social justice for Indians discriminated against because of their social station.

Man pulls Boeing 737 with his hair

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Stuntman R. Letchemanaah used his hair Sunday to pull a Boeing 737-200 aircraft 16.8 metres at Kuala Lumpur's airport. Urged on by cheering spectators, Letchemanaah, 40, tied a strap to his long curly hair and pulled the 28-tonne Malaysia Airlines aircraft and the four tonnes of fuel it was carrying. A crowd of about 500 watched under the hot sun, while an estimated 1 million others watched on live television.

Letchemanaah, dubbed "Malaysia's mighty man," at first appeared as if he might not be able to move the plane, the national news agency Bernama reported. His feet slipped on the tarmac at one point. After tightening the strap tied to his hair, Letchemanaah again faced the crowd, clenched his teeth and fists, leaned over and began to slowly pull the plane forward.

Letchemanaah, a strict vegetarian, said he went on a special diet for two weeks to prepare for the feat. Letchemanaah, a laboratory assistant with the rubber research institute, said the stunt was a "matter of concentration." In the past, Letchemanaah has pulled a bus carrying 27 passengers for 30 metres with his hair, pulled a 6.1 ton vehicle with his teeth for 20 metres, and has his arm run over by a truck.

Director to marry for 6th time

LONDON (AP) — Film director Sir David Lean, 82, who made Lawrence of Arabia, is to marry for the sixth time, Daily Mail columnist Nigel Dempster said Monday. He said Lean will wed 51-year-old interior designer Sandra Cooke before Christmas, after proposing on the telephone five years after they first met. The encounter was in the frozen food department of Hatfield's Department Store where Ms. Cooke had approached Lean and asked when his next film was due, the columnist said.

Royal Shakespeare turns to glasnost

LONDON (AP) — The Royal Shakespeare Company, whose plays about the lives, deaths and treacheries of English monarchs have intrigued millions, has turned to Gorbachev and glasnost, and it looks like a flop, Moscow Gold, which opened in London this week with actor David Calder playing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, was mostly panned by the critics. The company's productions of Shakespeare history plays are still performed to packed houses, but it is on shakier ground with one of the biggest real-life dramas of the twentieth century. "The whole thing is best forgotten, as I'm sure it will be," Jack Tinker in the Daily Mail wrote of the play, co-written by Britons Howard Brenton and Pakistan-born Tariq Ali. Moscow Gold opened at the company's Barbican Theatre, where it runs in repertory through Nov. 5. Initial performances have played to about 60 per cent attendance in the 1,162-seat auditorium.

Block party turns into riot

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — City officials planned to meet later Monday to discuss a block party that turned into a riot in which revellers attacked police. Seventeen people were injured and 89 arrested in the weekend melee. Up to 2,000 people were attending the annual bash outside the University of Akron when fire and police officials responded to a call to put out a large bonfire. Some of the revellers — mostly college-aged youths — tried to block their entrance and then threw bottles, rocks and glass at emergency personnel trying to douse the fire, officials said. Police used tear gas and firefighters turned their hoses on the crowd to break up the melee. "We were being pelted with bottles and rocks from all sides! People were throwing things from the porches and second-story windows of the houses. It was a bad situation and we had to end it," Lt. Tom Hanley said. Some students charged police used excessive force to break up the disturbance. Police chief Philip G. Barnes denied the charges. Most of those injured received cuts and bruises. There were no serious injuries, police said.